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АНАЛІЗ СТАНУ ТА ДИНАМІКИ ЗОВНІШНЬОЇ ТОРГІВЛІ УКРАЇНИ ПЛОДООВОЧЕВОЮ ПРОДУКЦІЄЮ В УМОВАХ ПОВНОМАШТАБНОГО ВТОРГНЕННЯ ПРИ ДІЇ ПОЛОЖЕНЬ ПЗВТ+ З ЄС

Актуальність. *Україна входить двадцятці країн-лідерів за показником валового виробництва овочевої продукції, але навіть в довоєнні роки виробництво плодоовочевої продукції характеризувалась зниженням конкурентоспроможності українських товаровиробників на зовнішньому ринку. Диспропорції у витратах, переробці та реалізації виробленої продукції призвели до зростання показнику імпорту овочевої продукції та від'ємного торговельного сальдо за зовнішньоторговельними операціями. Проблеми у виробництві та зовнішній торгівлі продукцією овочівництва та плодівництва загострила війна, з початку вторгнення українські виробники втратили значну кількість сільськогосподарських площ, зблокованими виявились традиційні шляхи перевезення товарів. Між тим, експорт сільськогосподарської продукції був та залишається для країни важливим джерелом надходження валюти, а обсяг овочевого сегменту спроможний навіть перевищити зерновий. В умовах, коли війна скоротила для України можливості для постачання товарів на зовнішні ринки, обумовила необхідність переглянути географічну структуру постачання, перед українським аграрним ринком стоїть завдання збільшити експортні поставки овочів, фруктів, а також продукції їх переробки. Зростання попиту на цю продукцію в ЄС створює додаткові можливості для українських виробників. Саме тому виникає необхідність дослідити вплив ПЗВТ+ на розвиток зовнішньої торгівлі плодоовочевою продукцією та виявити проблеми, що перешкоджають нарощуванню експорту овочів і плодів до ЄС.*

Мета та завдання. *Метою статті є аналіз стану та динаміки зовнішньої торгівлі України плодоовочевою продукцією з ЄС в умовах повномасштабного вторгнення та дії умов ПЗВТ+, а також виявлення проблем і перспектив збільшення експорту цієї продукції на ринок ЄС. Досягнення мети передбачає проведення аналізу динаміки та структури торгівлі овочами і фруктами з країнами ЄС, дослідження впливу ПЗВТ+ на експорт та імпорт, визначення проблеми, що стримують експорт овочів і фруктів до ЄС, узагальнення перспективних напрямів нарощування експорту плодоовочевої продукції на ринок ЄС.*

Матеріали та методи. *Методичною базою дослідження виступили попередні науково-теоретичні та практичні публікації з проблем зовнішньої торгівлі між Україною та ЄС товарами сільськогосподарської галузі. Інформаційною та статистичною базою дослідження є дані Державна служба статистики України та Митної служби України. Дослідження тенденцій зовнішньої торгівлі плодоовочевою продукцією України та ЄС здійснено з використанням методів структурного аналізу, синтезу та узагальнення, статистичного аналізу. Для візуалізації результатів використано графічний метод.*

Результати. *У результаті дослідження проаналізовано динаміку експорту та імпорту овочів і фруктів України з ЄС за 2017-2023 рр. Виявлено загальну тенденцію до зростання товарообігу з ЄС та частки ЄС у зовнішній торгівлі України плодоовочевою продукцією. Продемонстровано збільшення обсягів експорту фруктів до країн ЄС, що свідчить про зростання конкурентоспроможності українських виробників та полегшення виходу на європейський ринок за рахунок підсилення економічної співпраці. Відзначено, що експорт овочів скоротився, а імпорт зріс, що спричинило від'ємне сальдо. Проаналізовано товарну та географічну структуру зовнішньої торгівлі плодоовочевою продукцією між Україною та ЄС. Показано особливості 2022-2023 рр. на тлі війни та торговельних преференцій з боку ЄС. Узагальнено логістичні проблеми, які в умовах повномасштабного вторгнення здійснюють суттєвий вплив на можливість нарощувати зовнішню торгівлю*

плодоовочевою продукцію з ЄС.

Висновки. *Зроблено висновок про в цілому позитивний вплив ПЗВТ+ на розвиток торгівлі овочами та фруктами з ЄС, про що свідчить зростання загального товарообігу овочів та фруктів. Експорт фруктів з України до ЄС зростав швидкими темпами, особливо у 2020-2021 роках. Експорт овочів з України відзначився зростанням з 2017 по 2018 рік, проте, в наступних роках сальдо має від'ємне значення, що свідчить про проблеми з сертифікацією українських овочів в період до 2022 року та необхідність національним виробникам задовольнити наявний внутрішній попит рід час війни. Виявлено, що найбільшими партнерами за показником товарообігу овочів серед країн ЄС стали Польща, Нідерланди, найбільшими партнерами за показником товарообігу фруктів в - Греція та Польща. Узагальнено, що серед основних логістичних проблем постачання плодоовочевої продукції на експорт під час війни відзначаються відсутність налагоджених диверсифікованих каналів експорту; відсутність достатніх обсягів оборотних засобів для посівних кампанії; наявність обмежень для зберігання продукції; зростання тарифів на перевезення вантажів як автомобільним, так і залізничним транспортом; ризики безпеки через замінювання звільнених територій та близькість бойових дій.*

Ключові слова: *експорт, імпорт, ПЗВТ+, зовнішня торгівля, плодоовочева продукція, ЄС, логістика зовнішньої торгівлі.*

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ANALYSIS OF THE STATE AND DYNAMICS OF UKRAINE'S FOREIGN TRADE IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTS UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF A FULL-SCALE INVASION WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE FTA+ WITH THE EU

Topicality. *Ukraine is among the twenty leading countries in terms of the gross production of vegetable products, but even in the pre-war years, the production of fruit and vegetable products was characterized by a decrease in the competitiveness of Ukrainian commodity producers on the foreign market. Disproportions in costs, processing and sales of manufactured products led to an increase in the import of vegetable products and a negative trade balance in foreign trade operations. Problems in the production and foreign trade of vegetable and fruit growing products were aggravated by the war, since the beginning of the invasion, Ukrainian producers lost a significant amount of agricultural land, and the traditional ways of transporting goods were blocked. Meanwhile, the export of agricultural products was and remains an important source of foreign exchange for the country, and the volume of the vegetable segment can even exceed the grain segment. In the conditions when the war has reduced the opportunities for Ukraine to supply goods to foreign markets, has caused the need to review the geographical structure of supply, the Ukrainian agricultural market faces the task of increasing export supplies of vegetables, fruits, as well as their processing products. The growing demand for these products in the EU creates additional opportunities for Ukrainian manufacturers. That is why there is a need to investigate the impact of DFTA+ on the development of foreign trade in fruit and vegetable products and to identify problems that prevent the growth of exports of vegetables and fruits to the EU.*

Aim and tasks. *The purpose of the article is to analyze the state and dynamics of Ukraine's foreign trade in fruit and vegetable products with the EU in the conditions of a full-scale invasion and the effect of DFTA+ conditions, as well as to identify problems and prospects for increasing the export of these products to the EU market. Achieving the goal involves an analysis of the dynamics and structure of trade in vegetables and fruits with EU countries, a study of the impact of the DFTA+ on export and import, identification of problems that hinder the export of vegetables and fruits to the EU, a generalization of promising directions for increasing the export of fruit and vegetable products to the EU market..*

Materials and Methods. *Previous scientific-theoretical and practical publications on the problems of foreign trade between Ukraine and the EU in agricultural products served as the methodological basis of the study. The informational and statistical base of the study is the data of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine and the Customs Service of Ukraine. The study of trends in foreign trade in fruit and vegetable products of Ukraine and the EU was carried out using the methods of structural analysis, synthesis and generalization, and statistical analysis. A graphical method was used to visualize the results.*

Research results. *As a result of the study, the dynamics of export and import of vegetables and fruits of Ukraine from the EU for 2017-2023 were analyzed. The general trend towards an increase in trade turnover with the EU and the share of the EU in Ukraine's foreign trade in fruit and vegetable products was revealed. An increase in the volume of fruit exports to EU countries has been demonstrated, which indicates the increase in the competitiveness of Ukrainian producers and the facilitation of access to the European market due to the strengthening of economic cooperation. It was noted that the export of vegetables decreased, while the import increased, which caused a negative balance. The commodity and geographical structure of foreign trade in fruit and vegetable products between Ukraine and the EU is analyzed. The features of 2022-2023 against the background of war and trade preferences from the EU are shown. The logistical problems that, in the conditions of a full-scale invasion, have a significant impact on the possibility of increasing foreign trade in fruit and vegetable products from the EU are summarized.*

Conclusion. *A conclusion was made about the generally positive impact of the DFTA+ on the development of trade in vegetables and fruits with the EU, which is evidenced by the increase in the total turnover of vegetables and fruits. Fruit exports from Ukraine to the EU grew rapidly, especially in 2020-2021. The export of vegetables from Ukraine was marked by growth from 2017 to 2018, however, in the following years the balance has a negative value, which indicates problems with the certification of Ukrainian vegetables in the period until 2022 and the need for national producers to satisfy the existing domestic demand during the war. It was revealed that Poland and the Netherlands became the largest partners in terms of vegetable turnover among the EU countries, while Greece and Poland became the largest partners in terms of fruit turnover. In general, among the main logistical problems of the supply of fruit and vegetable products for export during the war, the lack of well-established diversified export channels is noted; lack of sufficient volumes of working capital for sowing campaigns; availability of product storage restrictions; an increase in tariffs for the transportation of goods by both road and rail transport; security risks due to the replacement of liberated territories and the proximity of hostilities.*

Keywords: *export, import, DFTA+, foreign trade, fruit and vegetable products, EU, foreign trade logistics.*

Problem statement and its connection with important scientific and practical tasks. Ukraine ranks among the twenty leading countries in terms of the gross production of vegetable and melon products, and among European countries it ranks third in terms of this indicator, second only to Italy and Spain. But even in the pre-war years, the field of vegetable and fruit growing was characterized by a certain decrease in the competitiveness of Ukrainian agricultural producers on the foreign market due to disproportions in the costs and results of activities both in production and in the processing and sale of produced products. The result was an increase in the import of vegetable products, which already in 2019 led to a negative trade balance in foreign trade transactions with fresh vegetable products. Ukraine remains a net importer of most types of vegetables and some fruits and berries. It should also be noted that in Ukraine more than 80% of vegetable and fruit cultivation is concentrated in small farms that do not comply with phytosanitary standards as required by the European Union, which also makes export impossible. As for the big market players, not all of them have the desire to acquire new knowledge and implement the latest growing, finishing, storage and packaging technologies, as well as to undergo certification, which is mandatory for supplying to European retail chains and wholesale companies.

Even more problems in the production and foreign trade of vegetable and fruit growing products were exacerbated by the war - Ukrainian producers lost a significant amount of agricultural land, sea routes for the transportation of goods, and faced a shortage of labor and fuel at the beginning of a full-scale invasion. Meanwhile, the solution of not only economic, but also social problems depends on the development of the vegetable and fruit growing industry in Ukraine. Increasing the economic functioning of the industry and the effectiveness of foreign trade will contribute to the development of rural areas, and will ensure the creation of additional jobs. In addition, the export of agricultural products was and remains an important source of foreign exchange for the country, and according to experts of the agricultural market, the volume of the vegetable segment can even exceed that of grain. Favorable climatic conditions and fertile soils are the foundation for Ukraine to become an export base for fresh and processed fruits and vegetables.

In the conditions when the war reduced the opportunities for Ukraine to supply goods to foreign markets, as well as caused the need to review the geographical structure of supply, the Ukrainian agricultural market faces the task of increasing export supplies of vegetables, fruits, as well as their processing products. The growing demand for these products in the EU creates additional opportunities for Ukrainian manufacturers. That is why there is a need to investigate the impact of FTA+ on the development of foreign trade in fruit and vegetable products and to identify problems that prevent the growth of exports of vegetables and fruits to the EU.

Analysis of recent publications on the

problem. The scientific publications of many domestic scientists are devoted to the problems of the activation of foreign trade of Ukraine, in particular in the part of foreign trade relations with the EU. Individual scientists also consider the issue of organization and directions for improvement of trade in fruit and vegetable products of Ukraine. For example, Us I. and Havrylenko N. (Us I. and Havrylenko N., 2022) examine the impact of the war on Ukraine's foreign trade. Duliaba N. and Dalyk V. (Duliaba N. and Dalyk V., 2020) investigate the trends and peculiarities of the development of foreign trade of Ukraine in the conditions of global instability caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and come to the conclusion that export activation measures should be aimed at stimulating development of processing industries. Dziad O. and Hordiienko O. (Dziad O. and Hordiienko O., 2020) establish the impact of the implementation of the association agreement between Ukraine and the EU on the development of Ukraine's foreign trade and emphasize the fact that the export orientation of plant products to the EU market has increased when preservation of high import dependence on ready-made food products. Rozhko N. (Rozhko N, 2020) summarizes the existing theoretical provisions of the state policy of ensuring the development of the agricultural sector through the improvement of the export of vegetables and fruits and offers strategic directions for the development of export policy for the commodity segment of vegetables and fruits.

Allocation of previously unsolved parts of the general problem. Undoubtedly, one should pay tribute to the results of scientific developments presented by previous researchers on the problem of the formation and implementation of foreign trade relations between Ukraine and the EU, including in the sector of trade in agricultural, in particular, fruit and vegetable products. Meanwhile, the topic of trade in vegetables and fruits for Ukraine, firstly, has not yet received adequate coverage in scientific publications, and secondly, it should be borne in mind that in wartime, the issue of foreign trade of Ukraine in fruit and vegetable products with the effect of the provisions of the FTA+ with the EU remains relevant and needs research in dynamics. In particular, trends in export and import indicators of fruit and vegetable products, identification of the impact of a full-scale invasion on foreign trade with the EU in fruits and vegetables, assessment of the influence of the political component of relations with EU countries on the development of export operations of Ukrainian producers are relevant for the study.

Formulation of research objectives (problem statement). The purpose of the article is to analyze the state and dynamics of Ukraine's foreign trade in vegetables and fruits with the EU in the conditions of a full-scale invasion and the effect of the conditions of the FTA+, as well as to identify problems and prospects for increasing the export of these products to the EU market. Achieving the goal involves the achievement of such goals as: to conduct an analysis of the dynamics and structure of trade in vegetables and fruits with the EU countries, to investigate the impact of the FTA+ on export and import, to identify key problems restraining the export of vegetables and fruits to the EU, to summarize promising directions for increasing the export of fruit and vegetable products to the EU market.

Materials and methods. The formation of the methodological base of the study was carried out using previous scientific-theoretical and practical publications on the problems of foreign trade between Ukraine and the EU in agricultural products. The informational and statistical base of the study is the data of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine and the Customs Service of Ukraine. The study of trends in foreign trade in fruit and vegetable products of Ukraine and the EU was carried out using the methods of structural analysis, synthesis and generalization, and statistical analysis. A graphical method was used to visualize the results.

An outline of the main results and their justification. After the events of 2014 (russian aggression and occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine), the country's economic integration into the European Union (EU) became an extremely difficult challenge and significantly affected the country's further economic development. These events created many problems and hindered the path to unity with Europe, as well as brought significant risks to the overall development of Ukraine. Meanwhile, joining the EU economic space has the potential to provide Ukraine with significant advantages, especially now, when the tendency to form the autonomy of influential world centers and ensure economic stability in strategic industries through the development of value-added networks is becoming increasingly evident. Ukraine has every chance and opportunity to integrate into the European economy and the EU common market, which are the most competitive and effective model for the socio-economic development of Ukraine. Despite the full-scale invasion of the aggressor, a number of important steps were taken in 2022 to intensify the economic partnership between Ukraine and the

EU, including the liberalization of trade contacts and the introduction of visa-free regimes in various fields of cooperation between Ukraine and the EU.

In the conditions when sea routes have become practically closed to domestic exporters, mutual trade with the EU has become a significant foreign economic factor that ensures the stability of Ukraine's economy, especially in the conditions of continued russian aggression and significant losses of human and material resources. Since 2013, the EU has turned into the main trade partner, whose contribution to Ukraine's foreign trade - from 2013 to 2021 it amounted to 39.2% (exports increased from 26.5% to 39.4%, imports from 35.1% to 39.8%) (Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, 2023).

The final data for the first half of 2022 indicate that the share of the EU in Ukrainian exports amounted to 52.2% (Us I., Havrylenko N., 2022). Compared to the previous year, the total volume of Ukrainian exports to the EU increased (Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, 2022). This growth is, in part, connected with the fact that in the conditions of a large-scale war and naval blockade, the western border of Ukraine became the main transport route. However, recently, thanks to the opening of the "grain corridor", we can observe the growth of cargo transportation from Ukrainian ports to various regions of the world, including the EU. In 2022, Ukraine successfully exported 50.9 million tons of agricultural and food industry products worth $21.1 billion. Unfortunately, this indicator is 16.7% lower than in 2021 (Economic Truth, 2022). Currently, Ukraine ranks 17th in terms of exports of goods to the EU and 15th in terms of imports of goods (European Commission, 2022). In general, it is possible to state a significant development of European trends in the geographical structure of Ukraine's foreign trade, which occurred in a short period of time (AgroPolit, 2021). As for the impact of the provisions of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area with the EU (DFTA +), since 2016, domestic companies have noted the active use of the opportunities provided by the Free Trade Area with the EU. In 2016, 13,402 companies exported to EU member states, and this number was growing, reaching 14,283 companies in 2021 (Tereshchuk, 2022). Since the beginning of the application of DFTA+, an incredible number of 584,907 EUR.1 certificates have been issued for export to the EU.

The general trends of Ukraine's trade relations with the EU in recent years testify to the heterogeneous dynamics of the influence of the free trade zone. On the one hand, intra-industry trade, albeit slowly, is still growing. The index of trade openness with the EU also indicates positive dynamics. Certain improvements are also observed in the trade balance index (Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, 2022). On the other hand, it is worth noting that the negative balance of trade in goods remained unchanged. Indicators of the concentration of Ukraine's exports as a whole increased, but in relation to exports to the EU, a downward trend was observed. Diversification of the commodity structure of exports to the EU was most evident in small volumes of commodity items (Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, 2022). Summarizing available analytical studies, we can say that the structure of Ukraine's trade with EU countries shows that the process of integration of Ukrainian enterprises into European value-added networks was quite slow. Mainly, this integration is fixed at the initial stages (export of raw materials) and final stages (import of finished products) with a small number of Ukrainian companies adding significant added value to exports. This, of course, affected the position of Ukraine in the European geo-economic space.

At the same time, russian military aggression in 2022 led to the actual severance of certain economic ties between Ukraine and well-known European companies. For example, BMW and Volkswagen were forced to suspend part of their production plants in Europe due to the temporary suspension of the supply of components from Ukrainian enterprises that supplied components for the production of cars (Forbes, 2022), but it can also be noted that the leader of the Northern European market of agriculture, mechanical engineering, bioenergy and food industry Lantmännen, which in Ukraine is represented by the production of dry breakfasts, cereals and cereal bars under TM Start and AXA, quickly restored capacity in Boryspil (Forbes, 2022). Before the russian invasion in 2022, Ukraine exported more than 40% of its goods to the EU, making the EU the country's leading trading partner. Ukraine exports mainly raw materials, chemical products and equipment to the EU. These exports grew by 48.5% between 2016 and 2019, reaching €24.2 billion in 2019, with a total turnover of €43.3 billion in the same year. In 2020, Ukraine took 4th place in the top of the largest exporters of agricultural and food products to EU countries with figures of 6,019 million euros or a share of 4.9%. In 2021, Ukraine was a particularly important source of EU imports of vegetable or animal oils and fats (14.5% of the value of all EU imports in this product group) and imports of grain crops and plant products (6.0% of EU imports). Exports of vegetables and fruits to the EU

represent much smaller volumes. Ukraine exports much more to other countries. Let's consider in more detail the structure of foreign trade in vegetables and fruits (according to UKTZED edible fruits and nuts) with EU countries (table 1 and table 2).

Table 1

Indicators of foreign trade with EU countries in vegetables for 2017-2021 (thousands of US dollars)

Year	Export		Import		Balance
	thousand dollars USA	in % to the total volume	thousand dollars USA	in % to the total volume	
2017	35672,6	0,2	24024,3	0,1	11648
2018	92281,3	0,5	28955,7	0,1	63326
2019	70399,7	0,3	60996,2	0,2	9403,5
2020	80266,5	0,4	94531,8	0,4	-14265
2021	60130,7	0,2	106557,5	0,4	-46427

Source: compiled according to (State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2017-2021).

The export of vegetables from Ukraine was marked by significant growth during the period from 2017 to 2018, after which it began to decline. Imports, on the other hand, are growing more and more throughout the studied period. The trade balance (the difference between exports and imports) shows that Ukraine had a significant advantage in exporting vegetables in 2018. However, in the following years, this value is negative, which means that Ukraine imports more vegetables than it exports. In general, it can be noted that during this period Ukraine became more dependent on the import of vegetables, domestic production was not able to satisfy domestic demand.

Table 2

Indicators of foreign trade with EU countries in fruits for 2017-2021 (thousands of US dollars)

Year	Export		Import		Balance
	thousand dollars USA	in % to the total volume	thousand dollars USA	in % to the total volume	
2017	139214,8	0,8	95956,1	0,5	43259
2018	152927,8	0,8	75315,8	0,3	77612
2019	70399,7	0,3	117951,7	0,5	-47552
2020	184431,8	1	130164,3	0,5	54268
2021	310041,4	1,2	112210,8	0,4	197831

Source: compiled according to (State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2017-2021).

The export of fruits from Ukraine was marked by significant growth during the entire period under study. Fruit imports also grew, although not as fast as exports. The trade balance shows that Ukraine has an advantage in fruit exports during this period. It is important to note that the export of fruits grew very quickly, especially in recent years, which may indicate the increased competitiveness of Ukrainian fruit producers on the international market. The negative balance in the fruit trade balance in 2019 was caused by a significant increase in imports this year. However, in subsequent years the situation improved, and the balance again became positive. So we can say that Ukraine has the potential for further development of fruit exports to EU countries and can use this industry to strengthen its trade balance.

According to the results of 2022, according to the data of the State Customs Service of Ukraine, the total turnover in the category of vegetables and some root crops and tubers amounted to 226.26 million dollars. USA, which is 33.41% more than in the previous year (State Customs Service of Ukraine, 2023). Exports amounted to 42.72 million dollars. USA, which is 32.38% less than the results of the previous year. Imports, in turn, increased by 72.46% and amounted to 183.54 million dollars. USA. A negative balance of USD 140.83 million is noted. USA compared to the value of -43.25 million dollars. USA in the previous year.

The largest category of vegetable exports in 2021 was leguminous vegetables, dried, peeled, peeled or not peeled from the seed coat, chopped or unchopped. The volume of their exports amounted to 24.8 million dollars. USA. Export of frozen vegetables (raw or cooked) was second in terms of volume, amounting to 8.42 million dollars. USA. Export of other fresh or chilled vegetables amounted to 4.56 million dollars. USA, and cucumbers and gherkins - 1.64 million dollars. USA. The structure of vegetable imports in 2022: onions, shallots, garlic, leeks and other bulbous

vegetables - 46.38 million dollars. USA, carrots, turnips, table beets, radishes, celery - 26.39 million dollars. USA, fresh or chilled tomatoes - 25.71 million dollars. USA, head cabbage, cauliflower, kohlrabi, leafy cabbage - 20.49 million dollars. USA, other fresh or chilled vegetables - 18.45 million dollars. USA.

Regarding the foreign trade of fruits in 2022, the turnover amounted to 374.03 million dollars. USA, which is 13.12% less than the previous year (State Customs Service of Ukraine, 2023). Exports amount to 269.09 million dollars. USA, which is 15.46% less than the previous year. Also, the import of fruits decreased by 6.5% and amounted to 104.94 million dollars. USA. Thus, the balance turned out to be positive and amounted to 164.14 million dollars. of the USA, which is 20.34% less than the previous year, the decrease in the balance amounted to 41.91 million dollars. USA.

The largest category of fruit exports was fruits and nuts, raw or boiled in water or steamed, frozen, with or without added sugar or other sweeteners - 190.7 million dollars. USA. The second largest category of export was other nuts or dried, shelled - 56.58 million dollars. USA. Other nuts, fresh or dried - 56.58 million dollars. USA. Apples, quinces and pears amounted to 2.22 million dollars. USA from the total amount of exports, other fresh fruits - 12.94 million dollars. USA.

In the structure of imports, the largest group consists of citrus fruits, fresh or dried - 37.69 million dollars. USA. Apricots, cherries and cherries, peaches (including nectarines), plums and dogwoods account for a large share of fruit imports - 18.94 million dollars. USA. Other fresh fruits amount to 22.01 million dollars. USA from the total volume of imports from EU countries. Melons (including watermelons) and papaya were also imported in the amount of 10.49 million dollars. USA. Apples, pears, and quinces also became large categories in the commodity structure of imports - 5.73 million dollars. USA and dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, guavas, mangoes and mangosteens - $4.21 million. USA.

The year 2023 was marked by the continuation of measures to support Ukraine. In particular, on May 9, 2023, the members of the European Parliament adopted a decision to renew the proposal to renew the suspension of import duties, anti-dumping duties and safeguards on Ukrainian exports to the EU for another year. The suspension of tariff duties concerns the export of agricultural products, in particular, fruits and vegetables (Ukraine.Europarl, 2023).

Let us consider in more detail the structure of export and import of vegetables and fruits to EU countries in 2023 (Table 3). As of the end of July 2023, the turnover of vegetable products amounted to 132.1 million dollars. USA. At the same time, import significantly exceeds export and amounts to 114.86 million dollars. USA with exports in the amount of 17.24 million dollars. USA. Thus, the balance was -97.62 million dollars. USA (State Customs Service of Ukraine, 2023). During the analyzed period in 2023, the import of vegetable products from EU countries decreased by 16.06% compared to the same period of the previous year, but still exceeds the volume of exports, which can be explained by the inability of domestic producers to satisfy the existing demand, which is associated with active military aggression russia against Ukraine and its consequences: seizure of territories, missile and drone attacks, which in some cases, such as in the Kherson region, make it difficult or completely impossible for agricultural enterprises to operate.

The turnover of foreign trade in fruits with the countries of the European Union turned out to be slightly higher than the turnover in vegetables and amounted to 164.97 million dollars. USA. At the same time, exports amounted to 94.93 million dollars. of the USA, which is 33.21% less than in the same period of the previous year, and imports - 70.04 million dollars. USA, which is 31.66% more than the previous period.

Table 3

Indicators of foreign trade with EU countries in vegetables in 2023 (million US dollars)

Month	Export	Import	Balance
January	2,9	8,62	-5,72
February	3,51	17,25	-13,74
March	3,41	19,77	-16,36
April	1,81	15,07	-13,26
May	1,71	21,87	-20,16
June	1,53	20,72	-19,19
July	2,38	11,56	-9,18

Source: compiled according to: (State Customs Service of Ukraine, 2023).

Thus, the balance is +24.9%. The first quarter was marked by higher indicators. Thus, in the first quarter of 2023, imports amounted to 31.55 million dollars. USA, in the second quarter imports decreased by 21.59 million dollars. USA.

The same situation is observed in the volume of fruit exports: in the first quarter, edible fruits and nuts were exported in the amount of 42.85 million dollars. USA, when in the second this indicator decreased by 12.1 million dollars. USA. In general, the data indicate a difficult situation on the fruit market with the countries of the European Union, where there is an increase in imports and a decrease in exports, which affects the trade balance of Ukraine even against the background of tariff reductions to facilitate export operations with the EU. Now let's consider in detail the indicators of foreign fruit trade with EU countries for the previously indicated period January-July 2023 (Table 4).

Table 4

Indicators of foreign trade with EU countries in fruit in 2023 (million US dollars)

Month	Export	Import	Balance
January	14,5	14,17	0,33
February	12,86	8,8	4,06
March	15,5	8,58	6,92
April	8,24	7,3	0,94
May	11,19	7,55	3,64
June	11,32	6,74	4,58
July	21,33	16,9	4,43

Source: compiled according to: (State Customs Service of Ukraine, 2023).

In the situation with foreign fruit trade with EU countries, we can also observe an increase in imports, which amounted to +31.66% compared to the same period of the previous year, which also indicates the inability of domestic producers to satisfy the existing demand for some items, mainly exotic fruits, which are not grown in Ukraine or are grown in very small quantities.

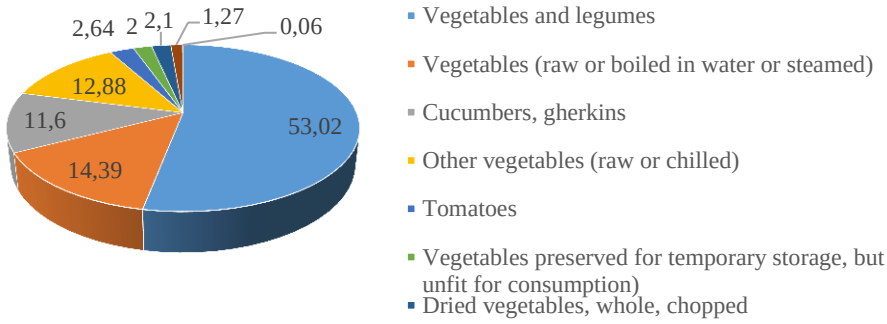


Fig. 1. Commodity structure of vegetable exports to EU countries in the period January-July 2023 (% of the total volume)

Source: compiled according to (State Customs Service of Ukraine, 2023).

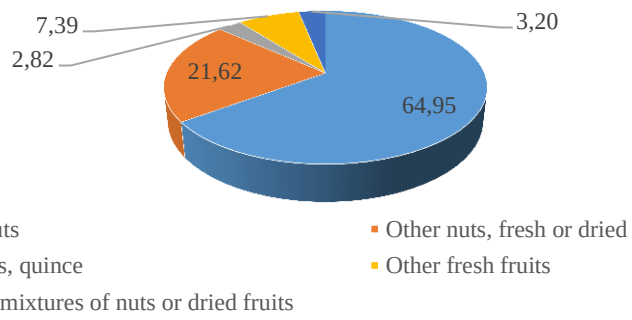


Fig. 2. Commodity structure of fruit exports to EU countries in the period January-July 2023 (% of the total volume)

Source: compiled according to (State Customs Service of Ukraine, 2023).

Poland became the largest partner in terms of turnover of vegetables among the EU countries with an index of 65.28 million dollars. USA. The Netherlands is in second place with a turnover of 28.76 million dollars. USA (State Customs Service of Ukraine, 2023). The largest partners in terms of fruit turnover in 2023 for the analyzed period January-July was Greece with an index of 35.61 million dollars. USA and Poland - 35.23 million dollars. USA. The third place was taken by Spain - 17 million dollars. United States of fruit turnover (State Customs Service of Ukraine, 2023).

Let's consider in more detail the geographical structure of Ukraine's foreign trade in vegetables and fruits with EU countries in 2023 (Table 5, Table 6).

Table 5

Geographical structure of foreign trade in vegetables with EU countries, January-July, 2023 (thousands of US dollars)

Mark	Partner country	Commodity circulation	Export	Imports	Balance
AT	Austria	124,52	86,17	38,35	47,82
BE	Belgium	1 897,51	130,81	1 766,70	-1 635,89
BG	Bulgaria	873,46	850,53	22,93	827,60
CY	Cyprus	1,51	1,51	0,00	1,51
CZ	Czech Republic	767,31	646,25	121,06	525,19
DE	Germany	3 113,56	1 357,05	1 756,51	-399,45
DK	Denmark	190,86	0,00	190,86	-190,86
EE	Estonia	80,66	80,66	0,00	80,66
ES	Spain	4 373,51	52,76	4 320,75	-4 267,99
FR	France	1 475,76	42,13	1 433,62	-1 391,49
GR	Greece	795,13	92,82	702,31	-609,50
HU	Hungary	1 524,11	1 175,19	348,93	826,26
IT	Italy	14 061,31	2 179,11	11 882,20	-9 703,10
LT	Lithuania	1 468,19	316,14	1 152,05	-835,91
LV	Latvia	313,22	40,87	272,35	-231,48
MT	Malta	5,57	5,57	0,00	5,57
NL	Netherlands	28 760,78	427,56	28 333,22	-27 905,66
PL	Poland	65 283,27	6 890,66	58 392,61	-51 501,95
PT	Portugal	31,32	0,00	31,32	-31,32
RO	Romania	4 846,97	952,11	3 894,86	-2 942,75
SE	Sweden	62,18	62,18	0,00	62,18
SI	Slovenia	127,19	10,34	116,85	-106,51
SK	Slovakia	18,54	18,54	0,00	18,54

Source: compiled according to (State Customs Service of Ukraine, 2023)

Table 6

Geographical structure of foreign fruit trade with EU countries, January-July, 2023 (thousands of US dollars)

Mark	Partner country	Commodity circulation	Export	Imports	Balance
1	2	3	4	5	6
AT	Austria	5234,37	5227,05	7,32	5219,73
BE	Belgium	3701,98	3454,91	247,07	3207,84
BG	Bulgaria	1681,24	1511,12	170,12	1341,00
CY	Cyprus	0,27	0,27	0,00	0,27
CZ	Czech Republic	6707,85	6616,07	91,78	6524,29
DE	Germany	11619,19	11599,68	19,51	11580,17
DK	Denmark	202,60	194,20	8,40	185,80
EE	Estonia	321,03	243,80	77,23	166,57
ES	Spain	17003,81	1156,14	15847,67	-14691,53

End of table 6

1	2	3	4	5	6
FI	Finland	41,54	41,54	0,00	41,54
FR	France	8444,69	7594,91	849,78	6745,13
GR	Greece	35610,66	2900,93	32709,73	-29808,80
HR	Croatia	1035,52	1032,41	3,11	1029,30
HU	Hungary	856,03	839,58	16,45	823,13
IT	Italy	13857,71	7983,22	5874,49	2108,73
LT	Lithuania	2472,62	2455,36	17,26	2438,10
LU	Luxembourg	12,28	12,28	0,00	12,28
LV	Latvia	1331,45	1331,45	0,00	1331,45
MT	Malta	1,57	1,57	0,00	1,57
NL	Netherlands	9859,83	5779,09	4080,74	1698,35
PL	Poland	35228,22	28113,70	7114,52	20999,19
PT	Portugal	236,03	234,21	1,82	232,39
RO	Romania	5784,43	2939,94	2844,49	95,45
SE	Sweden	826,93	814,20	12,73	801,47
SI	Slovenia	295,06	263,36	31,70	231,66
SK	Slovakia	365,87	365,87	0,00	365,87

Source: compiled according to (State Customs Service of Ukraine, 2023).

According to Table 5, it can be concluded that Poland, Italy, Germany and Hungary became the largest exporters of vegetable products grown in Ukraine. Ukraine imported the most vegetables from such EU countries as Poland, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain and Romania. The largest exporters of Ukrainian fruit were Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic and France. In 2023, Ukraine imported the most fruits from countries such as Greece, Spain, Poland and Romania.

Thus, it can be noted that the creation of the FTA+ with the EU corresponds to the economic interests of the country. At the same time, it is necessary to remember that in order to increase competition in the market of agricultural products, increase the efficiency and volume of exports to the EU, Ukrainian producers need to modernize production and improve the production process (Ukhanova I., 2021). Meanwhile, it should be noted certain problems of realizing the advantages of Ukraine's free trade with the EU, caused, first of all, by political factors. It should be noted that with the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the EU, Great Britain and Canada temporarily canceled all tariffs and quotas on the export of agricultural products from Ukraine. Poland announced plans to create a "dry port" on the border with Ukraine to increase the export capacity of Ukrainian agricultural products. The EU also eased environmental requirements for Ukrainian freight transport that transports crops to certain countries of the European Community. Meanwhile, disputes between Ukraine and trade partners from the EU can be noted from time to time, which are embodied in the implementation of an embargo on the import of Ukrainian agricultural products. First of all, we are talking about the claims of European farmers, which are that cheap Ukrainian grain and other products lower the prices of grain, due to which farmers suffer losses, and warehouses are overflowing with Ukrainian agricultural products. Farmers in Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia organized mass protests, blocking checkpoints and roads with agricultural machinery. The prime ministers of the mentioned countries appealed to the EU leadership with a demand to limit the amount of Ukrainian products entering the EU. So far, fruit and vegetable products have not been included in the list of goods that are periodically subject to export restrictions. Ukraine is trying to settle the situation and has submitted a proposal for licensing and quotas for agricultural products. Meanwhile, it cannot be claimed that in the absence of further understanding with European partners, the list of Ukrainian agricultural products subject to restrictions will not be expanded.

It should also be noted the logistical problems that, despite the geographical proximity to the EU, have a significant impact on the possibility of increasing foreign trade in fruit and vegetable products. Among such problems should be mentioned (UN Development Program in Ukraine, 2022):

- lack of well-established diversified export channels - currently it cannot be said that in the conditions of the blockade of sea ports in the south of Ukraine, new export routes by rail transport to the ports of Romania and the Baltic countries have not yet been created;
- lack of sufficient amounts of working capital for sowing campaigns – difficulties with crop export create a shortage of working capital for farmers;
- availability of restrictions for product storage – due to military aggression, farmers can store products only in regions where hostilities are not taking place, and their quantity is limited;
- increase in tariffs - tariffs for the transportation of goods by both road and rail transport are increasing;
- security risks - the access of farmers and large market players to land is limited due to the replacement of liberated territories and the proximity of hostilities.

Conclusions and perspectives of further research. Thus, agriculture is one of the leading sectors of Ukraine's economy, which in 2021 accounted for more than 10% of the country's GDP and about 41% of total exports. The export of agricultural products produces a significant share of foreign currency income in the budget of Ukraine, contributes to increasing the level of employment and incomes of the rural population, and stimulates the modernization of agriculture. One of the important components of the agricultural complex of Ukraine in the context of foreign trade is the export of fruit and vegetable products, although Ukraine remains a net importer of most types of vegetables and some fruits and berries.

With the development of economic relations with the EU, the countries that are members of the Union are becoming increasingly important partners for Ukraine. The total turnover of vegetables and fruits between Ukraine and the EU grew during 2017-2021, which indicates the positive impact of the FTA+. Fruit exports from Ukraine to the EU grew rapidly, especially in 2020-2021. This indicates an increase in the competitiveness of Ukrainian fruits on the EU market thanks to the FTA+, as well as a relaxation of tariff barriers that make access to the EU internal market more open for Ukrainian producers. Ukraine has a stable positive balance in fruit trade with the EU.

The export of vegetables from Ukraine was marked by significant growth during the period from 2017 to 2018, after which it began to decline. Imports, on the other hand, are growing more and more throughout the studied period. The trade balance (the difference between exports and imports) shows that Ukraine had a significant advantage in exporting vegetables in 2018. However, in the following years this value is negative, the import of vegetables from the EU is increasing. This testifies to the non-competitiveness of Ukrainian vegetables and the difficulty, in view of the current situation in the country, for national producers to satisfy the existing domestic demand.

In 2022-2023, due to the war, there is a general decrease in the volume of trade in vegetables and fruits with the EU. In the situation with foreign fruit trade with EU countries, an increase in imports can be observed, which indicates the inability of domestic producers to satisfy the existing demand for some items, mainly exotic fruits that are not grown in Ukraine or are grown in very small volumes. Poland and the Netherlands became the largest partners in terms of trade turnover of vegetables among the EU countries, Greece and Poland became the largest partners in terms of trade turnover of fruits in 2023 - 35.23 million dollars. USA. The EU provides trade preferences to Ukraine, which ease the country's economic situation, it can be stated that the FTA+ generally has a positive impact on Ukraine's foreign trade in vegetables and fruits and contributes to the deepening of Ukraine's economic cooperation with the EU.

It should also be noted that in Ukraine, more than 80% of vegetable and fruit cultivation is concentrated in small farms that do not comply with phytosanitary standards according to EU requirements, which complicates and makes export impossible. Not all of the big players have the desire to acquire new knowledge and implement the latest growing, finishing, storage and packaging technologies, as well as to undergo certification, which is mandatory for supply to European retail chains and wholesale companies. There are logistical problems that have a negative impact on the possibility of increasing foreign trade in fruit and vegetable products. Among such problems should be mentioned the lack of well-established diversified export channels; lack of sufficient volumes of working capital for sowing campaigns; availability of product storage restrictions; an increase in tariffs for the transportation of goods by both road and rail transport; security risks due to the replacement of liberated territories and the proximity of hostilities.

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