

GEOGRAPHICAL STRUCTURE AND TRADE BALANCE OF UKRAINE: STATISTICAL APPROACH

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Foreign economic relations between subjects of the international economy are extremely important. These relations ensure economic growth, contribute to the development of a competitive market environment and all indicators of the development of the national economy. In Ukraine, the sale of goods and services abroad also significantly affects the pace of economic growth, the creation of a competitive market environment and the process of systemic transformation of the economy. An important component of the economic activity of business entities and other participants in market relations is foreign trade, which is connected with access to the foreign market, with international production and scientific and technical cooperation, export and import of goods, services, etc.

Problems of foreign trade are relevant every year, as foreign economic relations are very dynamic. This problem is studied by many scientists of the world. In [1] the authors considered the external trade of Eurozone countries. In [2] the foreign trade in services of Ukraine in different time periods is described, in particular the pre-pandemic period and 2021. In [3] the authors carried out a statistical overview of the foreign trade of France. However, the study of foreign trade issues of countries, in particular Ukraine, requires constant attention and is always relevant.

Obviously the main indicators of the foreign trade development are export and import. It is also worth evaluating the foreign trade turnover and the balance of the trade balance. It is also important to identify whether the trade balance is positive or negative.

According to the results of 2019, the foreign trade turnover of goods and services increased by 9.1% (by 11.0 billion US dollars) compared to the figures of 2018 and amounted to 131.8 billion dollars. USA. In addition, a positive trade balance was observed in 2019, but COVID-19 made its adjustments and in 2020 it will be negative again.

In 2017-2018, foreign trade operations were conducted with partners from 221 countries. The volume of exports of goods to Germany increased by 0.6 percentage points. compared to 2017, which is 4.7% in 2018. Also, close mutual relations have been established in the field of export of goods with Poland, the share of exports is 6.9% by 0.6 percentage points. Ukraine bought the most goods from russia, which is 7.7% of the total volume of exports of goods in 2018. This trend continued in 2019-2021. However, we believe that the situation will fundamentally change after russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

In 2020 Ukraine's export-import operations with European countries were quite intensive. Poland and Germany were Ukraine's main trade partners among European countries in 2020.

Regarding the post-covid period, the situation has not changed much. The results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. – Geographical structure of import of goods in January 2022

Country	Import, thousands of US dollars	Import, % to January 2021
Belarus	539190,6	219,2
Italy	144731,3	130,7
China	1050720,1	160,0
Lithuania	102753,7	170,3
Germany	398844,7	133,1
Poland	358550,4	148,9
russia	634297, 7	177,0
United Kingdom	121230,7	227,7
USA	361367,4	163,5
Turkey	240896,6	152,5
Hungary	116758,6	56,4
France	126480,4	147,9
Czech Republic	159041,5	249,7
Switzerland	148659,7	82,0

Source: authors' construct based on the data of the State Statistics Service [4]

Among the main trade partners of Ukraine in January 2022, in terms of imports, are mostly European countries, in particular, neighboring countries Poland, Hungary, Belarus and russia. However, after the full-scale invasion of russia on the territory of Ukraine, a trade embargo was introduced against it. The import of goods from russia into the customs territory of Ukraine is prohibited.

In general, there is a war in the country, so it is obvious that the intensity of trade has decreased. According to the results of the three quarters of 2022, the value of foreign trade in Ukraine decreased by 26.8% compared to the same period in 2021. Regarding the geography of Ukrainian foreign trade in 2022, out of 3.8 billion dollars of exports, 2.5 billion dollars will go to the EU. The largest trade partners of Ukraine in 2022 are: Poland (\$560 million), Romania (\$412 million) and Turkey (\$234 million).

Literature:

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