



Monthly Economic Monitoring of Ukraine

№259, August 2026

Executive Summary

- According to Ukrstat, real GDP increased by 0.6% yoy in Q2 2026.
- IER estimates real GDP growth at 1.3% yoy in July 2026.
- In July, Ukraine imported 1,755 ths. MWh of electricity, 40% less than in June. Electricity exports increased by 48% compared with June, to 232.5 ths. MWh.
- As of 5 August, Ukraine's underground gas storage facilities held 9.6 bn m³ of natural gas (+16% mom). Storage facilities were 30% full.
- In January–July 2026, Ukrainian seaports handled 46 m tonnes of cargo.
- In the 28 days of July, rail shipments of grain amounted to 1.89 m tonnes (+82.3% yoy). In June, railways transported 13.39 m tonnes of cargo (-17% yoy).
- Goods exports fell by 5% yoy in July to USD 3.1 bn due to the blockade of seaports in the second half of the month.
- Goods imports increased by 23% yoy in July to USD 8.8 bn and approached this year's high.
- State Budget revenues tripled in July compared with July 2025, to UAH 720 bn, reflecting the receipt of the Ukraine Support Loan tranche from the EU for defence needs, as well as other in-kind military assistance.
- Consumer inflation accelerated to 7.7% yoy in July from 7.2% yoy in June.
- The NBU raised the key policy rate by 0.5 pp to 15.5% p.a.

GDP and the real sector: Risks to economic growth have increased

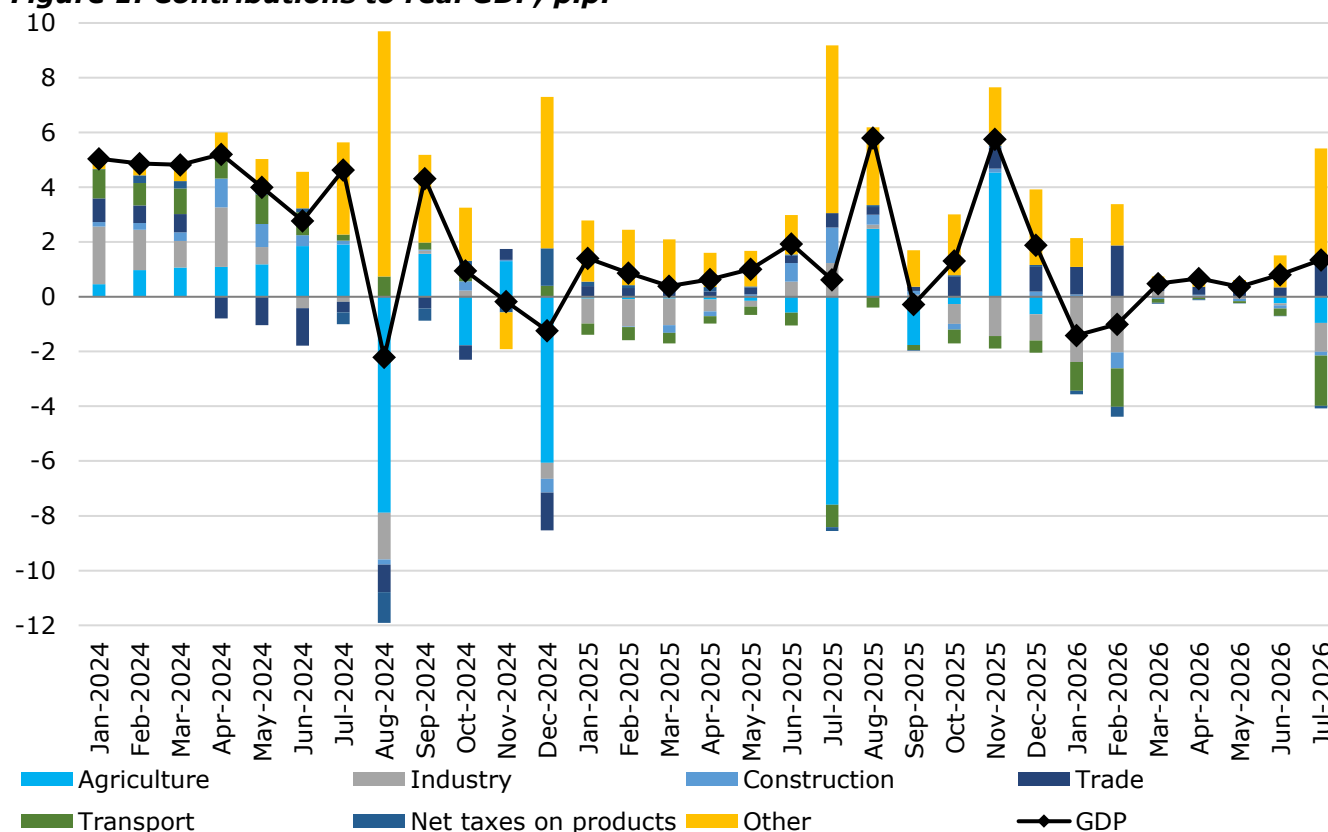
Ukrstat. According to Ukrstat, in June growth in extractive industry decelerated further to 1.3% yoy, as Russia continued strikes on gas extraction in Ukraine. Manufacturing growth accelerated to 3.3% yoy thanks to the contribution of the defence industry and better access to electricity. At the same time, the decline in electricity production and gas distribution remained significant, at 12% yoy. Construction declined by 13.9% yoy due to lower volumes of engineering construction, primarily fortifications. Retail trade growth remained high, reflecting strong consumption, although it slowed from 10.9% yoy in May to 8.4% yoy in June.

According to Ukrstat, agricultural production declined in June. In particular, production of fruits and berries decreased, while the grain harvest increased.

Ukrstat also published its estimate of real GDP growth in Q2 2026 at 0.6% yoy, which corresponds to the IER estimate.

IER estimate. IER estimates real GDP growth in July at 1.3% yoy, slightly higher than the estimated 0.8% yoy growth in June. The estimates may be revised. Real gross value added (GVA) in agriculture is estimated to decline by 4.2% yoy due to weaker crop production indicators.

Figure 1: Contributions to real GDP, p.p.



Source: IER estimate

We estimate growth in real GVA in manufacturing at 2.9% yoy, somewhat lower than in June. Defence-related sectors, as before, remain the main contributors to this growth. At the same time, extractive industry is estimated to have declined by 3.3% yoy due to the impact of Russian shelling and logistics restrictions through seaports on the extraction of minerals, primarily gas and iron ore. According to our estimate, the decline in electricity production and gas distribution remained close to 10% yoy.

Growth in real GVA in trade is estimated at 3.7% yoy, slower than in June. It is likely to decelerate further due to Russian attacks on logistics and inventories. Thus, wholesale trade is likely to decline, while retail trade turnover will continue to grow, but more slowly than in June.

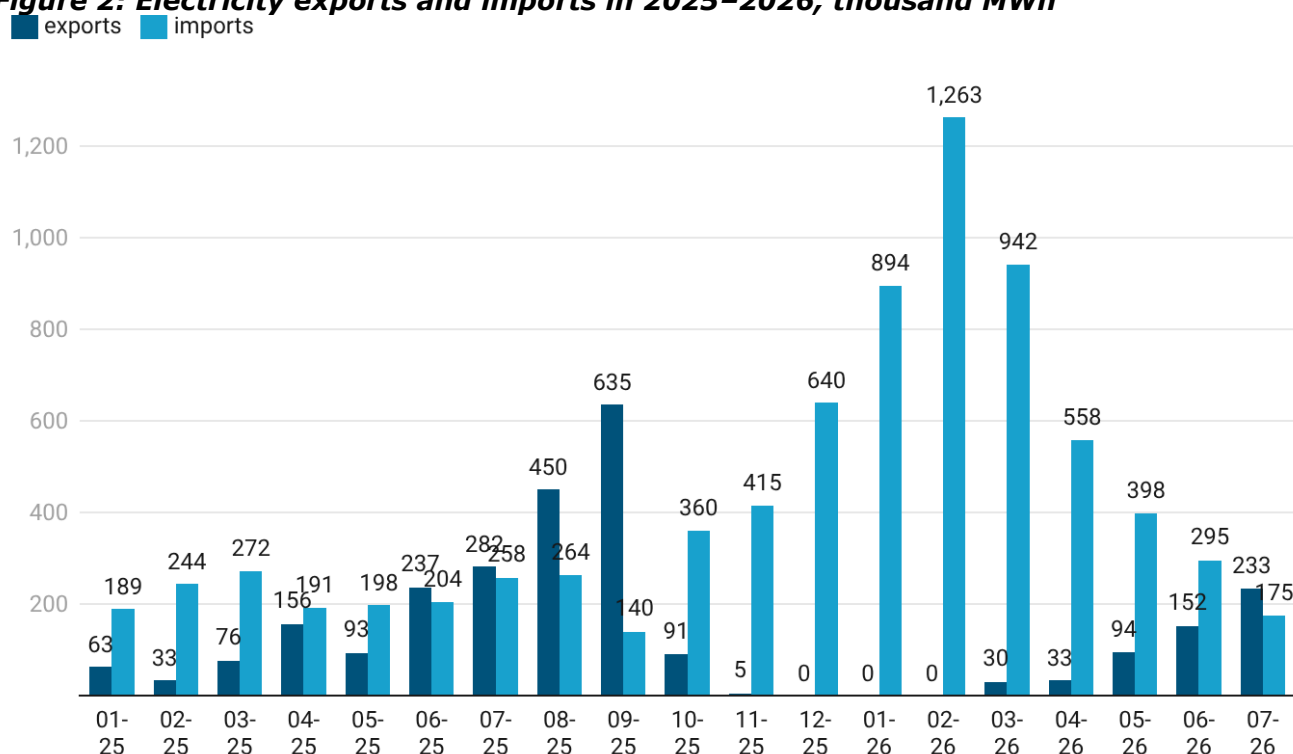
The decline in real GVA in transport is estimated to have accelerated to almost 12% yoy due to restrictions on maritime shipments through the ports of Big Odesa and the Danube ports.

Energy: Electricity exports exceeded imports

Electricity. In July, nuclear power plants did not reduce electricity generation, as usually happens during the summer maintenance campaign. As of early August, scheduled maintenance had already been completed at five nuclear power units. Energoatom reported that in the first half of 2026 Ukrainian nuclear power plants generated 26,820.1 GWh of electricity, which is 163.1 GWh, or less than 1%, more than in the same period last year.

In July, Ukraine imported 175 ths. MWh of electricity, 40% less than in June. The largest share came from Hungary (40%). Electricity exports increased by 48% compared with June, to 232.5 ths. MWh. Exports to Slovakia increased the most, almost sixfold compared with the previous month. In addition, in July, electricity exports to Poland resumed for the first time since November 2025. Hungary remained the largest export destination, accounting for 48% of total supplies.

Figure 2: Electricity exports and imports in 2025–2026, thousand MWh



Note: Figures are based on data on commercial electricity flows to/from Ukraine. Customs data may differ from these figures.

Source: ExPro

The National Energy and Utilities Regulatory Commission (NEURC) approved Ukrenergo's electricity transmission tariff, effective from 1 August 2026, at UAH 928.45/MWh. A preferential tariff of UAH 563.26/MWh was set for enterprises engaged in "green" electrometallurgy.

Gas. Ukraine continued to actively build up gas stocks ahead of the winter season. In July, 76 m³ of imported natural gas was injected into underground storage under the customs warehouse regime, three times more than in June. However, as in recent months, domestic gas production remained the main source of storage injections.

As of 5 August, Ukraine's underground gas storage facilities held 9.6 bn m³ of natural gas (available gas excluding technical gas), 16% more than on 5 July. Storage facilities were 30% full, significantly higher than a year earlier (18%).

In July, Russian forces deliberately attacked Naftogaz gas production facilities in Kharkiv oblast. The company reported that part of the equipment had to be shut down, resulting in losses of gas production.

Oil. Since spring 2026, Russia has significantly intensified attacks on fuel stations. In July, around 20 filling stations were damaged each week. According to NaftoRynok, 40% of these attacks occurred in Kharkiv oblast. To minimise potential losses from further attacks, fuel station operators in Dnipropetrovsk oblast decided to reduce the amount of fuel stored in underground tanks.

The market has been experiencing a shortage of diesel fuel. The OKKO fuel station network introduced a limit of 100 litres per refuelling. The shortage has been driven by lower supplies to Ukraine due to tighter availability on the European market, disruptions to river transport caused by low water levels on the Danube, and increased purchases of fuel by Russia on the European market, reducing volumes available for sale.

Transport: Odesa ports blocked again

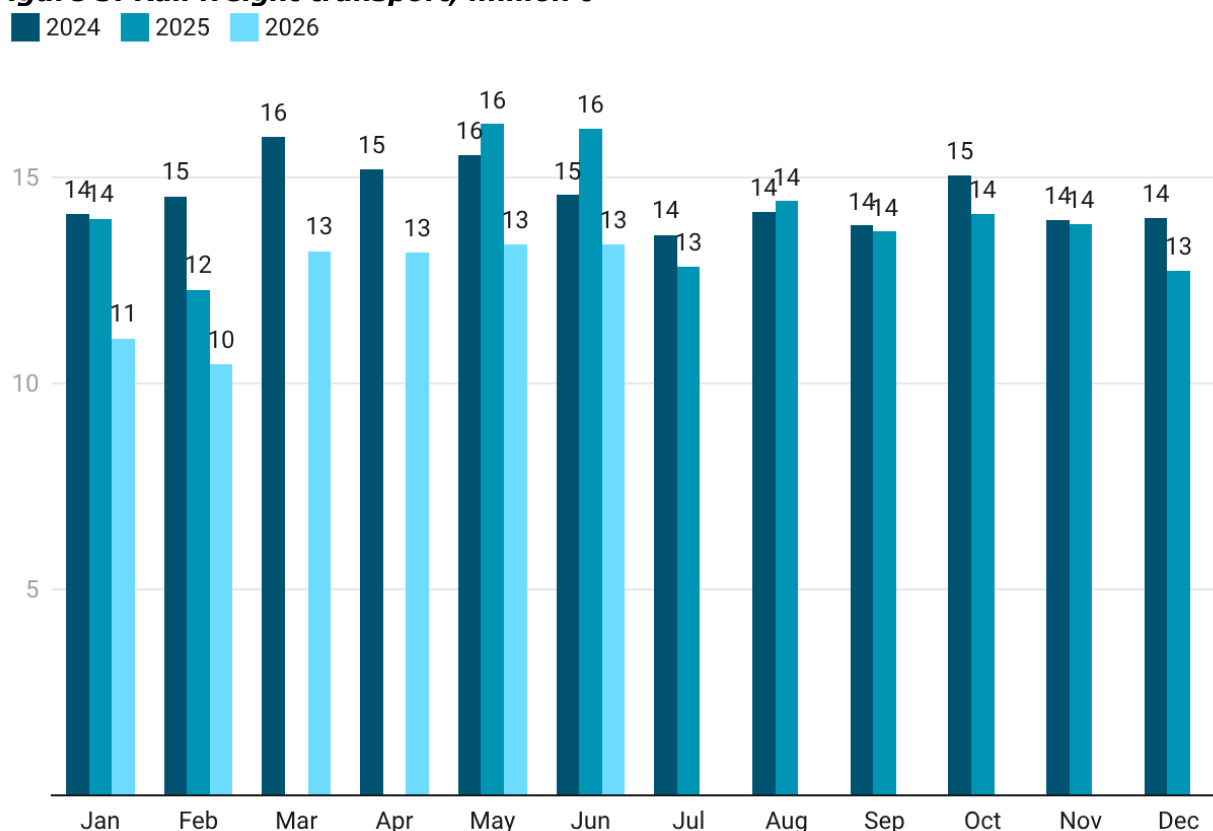
Maritime transport. In July, Russia sharply intensified attacks on maritime logistics: 67 attacks on port facilities, 35 attacks on civilian vessels in ports, and 22 attacks on vessels in the Ukrainian Maritime Corridor were recorded. Due to increased security risks, some shipowners temporarily suspended calls at the seaports of Big Odesa, while some terminals stopped operations and grain purchases. As a result, seaborne grain export capacity declined by around one-third, leading to lower domestic purchase prices and complicating exports of agricultural and industrial products.

Private operators began redirecting cargoes to the Danube, Romania's Constanța and land routes. In particular, from 22 July Maersk temporarily suspended its service through the Black Sea Fishing Port and redirected cargoes to Constanța. At the same time, alternative routes are more expensive and have lower throughput capacity, so they cannot fully replace the deep-water ports of Greater Odesa. Water levels in the Danube also declined significantly.

In January–July 2026, Ukrainian seaports handled 46 m tonnes of cargo. Of this, 42.2 m tonnes were handled by the ports of Greater Odesa, while only 3.8 m tonnes were handled by the Danube cluster.

Rail transport. Russia continued targeted attacks on railway infrastructure and rolling stock, causing significant train delays on some routes.

Figure 3: Rail freight transport, million t



Source: Ukrstat

In June, railways transported 13.39 m tonnes of cargo (-17% yoy) with 1.38 m tonnes of grain delivered to seaports (-37% mom). In the 28 days of July, rail shipments of grain amounted to 1.89 m tonnes (+82.3% yoy). The decline was linked to the suspension of vessel calls and slower operations at the ports of Greater Odesa. As a result, Ukrzaliznytsia temporarily restricted some port-bound shipments, while some cargo flows were redirected to the Danube and western border.

From 1 August, freight rail tariffs were increased by 30%. For grain, this raises transport costs by around UAH 169 per tonne, further increasing the cost of exports.

Road transport. In June, trucks transported 14.1 m tonnes of cargo (+43% yoy, +2% mom).

Since 17 July, eCherha has been testing priority border crossing for trucks of companies with authorised economic operator (AEO) status, as well as for shipments under T1 and TIR transit declarations. Documents of such companies are checked automatically through customs systems.

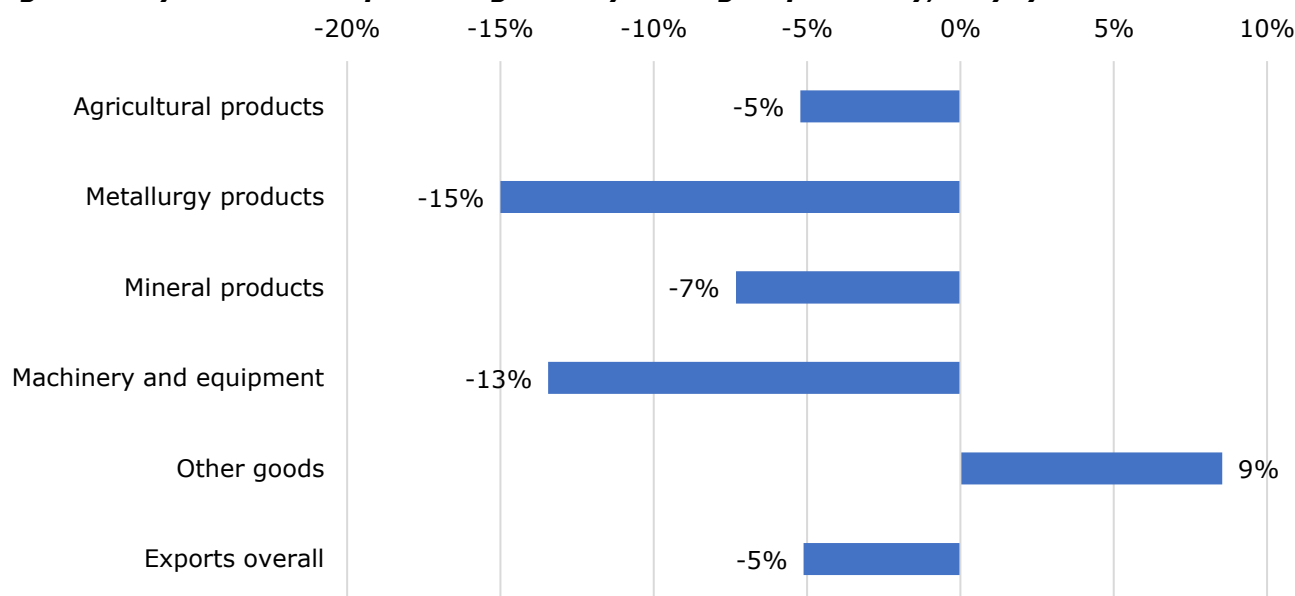
On 26 July, updated rules on drivers' working time and rest periods entered into force. They are harmonised with EU rules and introduce stricter requirements for recording driving time, breaks and the use of tachographs.

External trade: Exports hit by port blockade

Goods exports fell by 5% yoy in July to USD 3.1 bn. Export volumes in dollar terms declined due to the blockade of seaports in the second half of the month. However, agricultural exports fell by only 5% yoy to USD 1.66 bn. Sunflower oil exports declined by 43% in tonnes, but this likely reflected a high comparison base. Exports of raw products - rapeseed and soybeans - also collapsed amid low stocks and their export mostly in the form of oil. At the same time, wheat and maize export volumes increased by 45% yoy and 112% yoy, respectively. Agricultural exports in dollar terms were also supported by high sunflower oil prices, which increased by 24% yoy.

Metallurgical exports dropped by 15% yoy to USD 324 m. At the same time, pipe exports increased sharply, while exports of rolled products were higher than last year. The decline concerned semi-finished products and pig iron. Exports of machine-building products declined by 13% yoy, primarily amid lower exports of electric heating appliances, including coffee machines. Meanwhile, exports of mineral products fell by only 7% yoy despite a 38% yoy decline in iron ore exports in tonnes. The decline in ore export volumes was offset by ore prices that were higher than last year's abnormally low levels, as well as by energy exports (oil, gas and electricity), which may be explained by favourable prices abroad and limited domestic oil refining capacity. Exports of other goods increased somewhat.

Figure 4: Dynamics of exports of goods by main groups in July, % yoy



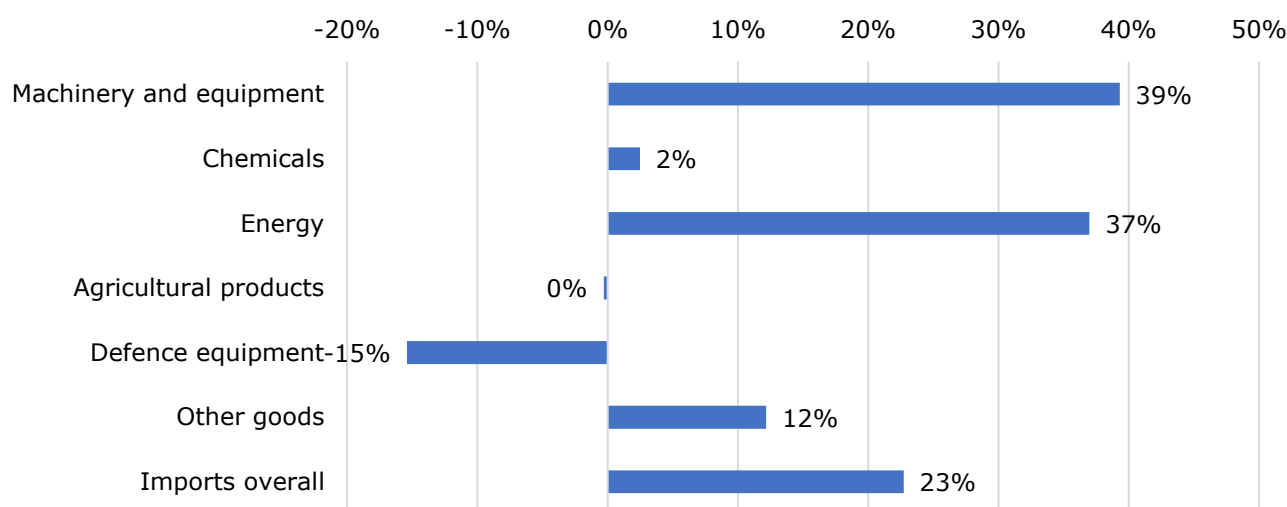
Source: Own calculations according to the State Customs Service

Goods imports increased by 23% yoy in July to USD 8.8 bn and approached this year's high. Imports of machine-building products once again reached new record highs, increasing by 39% yoy to USD 4.46 bn due to a sharp increase in demand and a wider range of components imported for the needs of the defence industry. Imports of energy equipment and cars also remained significant.

Energy imports increased by 37% yoy to USD 1.0 bn. Despite a sharp increase in prices, with the average price per tonne rising by 56%, imports of petroleum products in tonnes increased by 4% yoy. As last year, gas customs clearance volumes were minimal. Electricity imports declined sharply.

Imports of chemical products were close to last year's level amid a sharp decline in fertiliser imports and some increase in imports of medicines. Imports of cosmetic products also increased sharply amid expected regulatory changes. Imports of industrial goods also grew due to strong demand from the defence industry.

Figure 5: Dynamics of imports of goods by main groups in July, % yoy

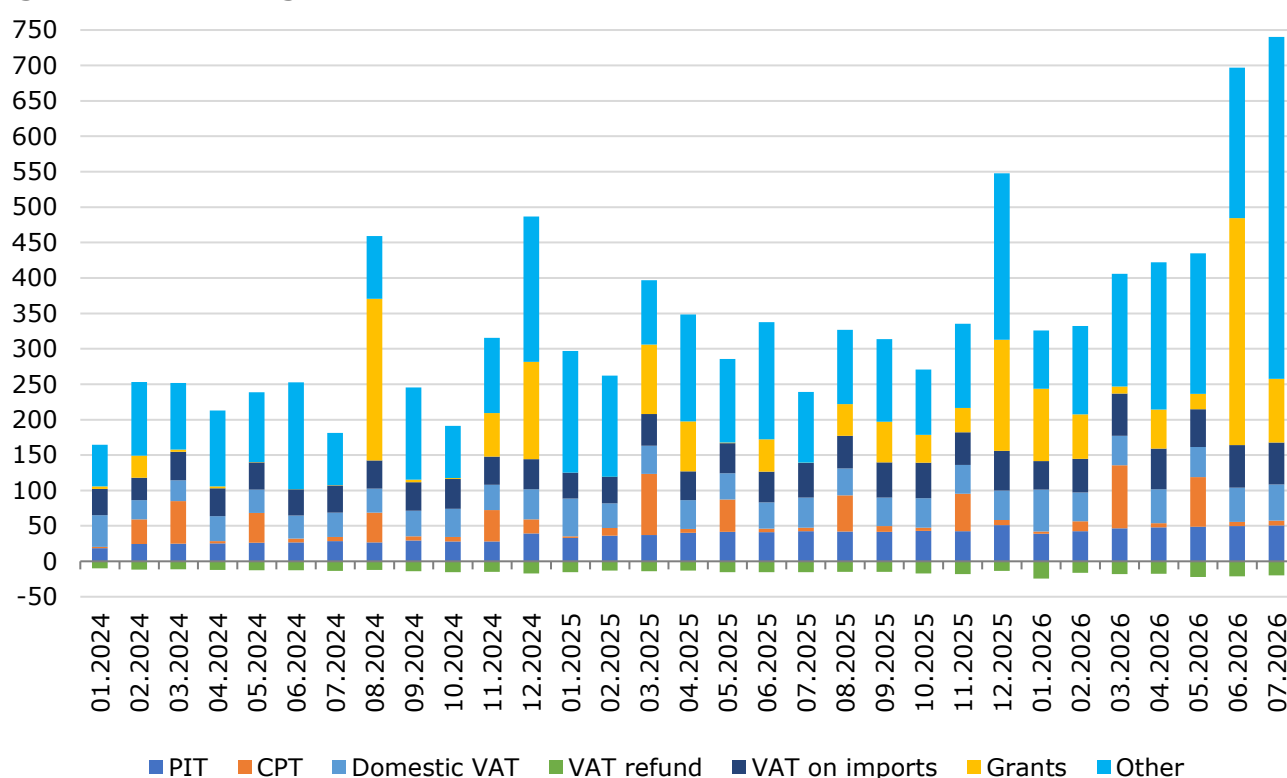


Source: Own calculations according to the State Customs Service

Fiscal policy: Ukraine Support Loan led to a sharp increase in revenues

Revenues. According to preliminary data, State Budget revenues tripled in July compared with July 2025, reaching UAH 720 bn. This was primarily due to the receipt of the Ukraine Support Loan (USL) tranche from the EU. In July, Ukraine received EUR 3.47 bn in defence assistance under the USL. It was also likely related to other in-kind military assistance, as the increase was mainly recorded in special fund revenues. At the same time, general fund revenues amounted to UAH 166 bn and were close to last year's level.

Figure 5: State Budget Revenues, UAH bn



Source: Ministry of Finance

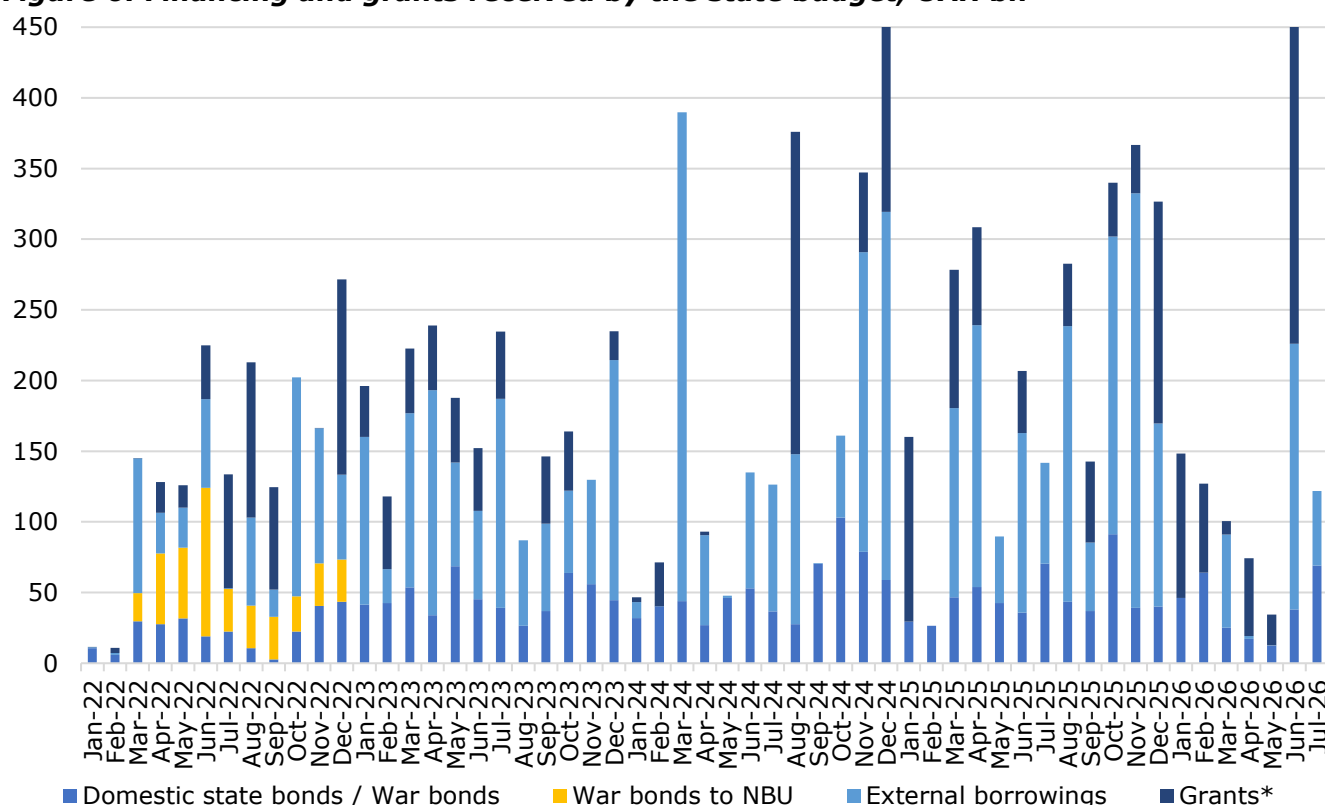
PIT revenues, including the military levy, increased by 19% yoy due to higher average wages. CPT revenues increased by 41% yoy to UAH 6.8 bn, although these figures do not yet reflect the situation with companies' financial results, as the scheduled tax payment falls in August.

Domestic VAT revenues grew primarily due to stronger consumption. Net domestic VAT revenues increased to UAH 30.8 bn thanks to higher gross VAT revenues, which reached a record UAH 50.7 bn (+19.9% yoy). VAT refunds declined somewhat compared with the previous two months, to UAH 19.9 bn (+30.3% yoy). VAT on imports increased by 21% yoy to UAH 59.4 bn, somewhat below the June figure. At the same time, actual VAT revenues were below planned indicators.

Financing. Financing to the general fund of the budget reached UAH 609 bn in the first seven months of 2026, or 58.8% of the annual plan. This is partly due to lower domestic bond placements and partly because some funds are received as grants and are not recorded as financing.

Financing from domestic bond placements amounted to UAH 69 bn in July, of which EUR 201 m or more than UAH 20 bn equivalent was raised through FX-denominated domestic bonds. At the same time, domestic bond proceeds raised in July amounted to UAH 56.1 bn, while the rest came from bonds placed on the last day of June. The weighted average yield on hryvnia-denominated domestic bonds was 15.21%, while the yield on euro-denominated bonds was 3.08%. In July, the MinFin also continued switch auctions for domestic bonds, this time worth UAH 15.2 bn.

Figure 6: Financing and grants received by the state budget, UAH bn



Note: * grants are part of budget revenues. External assistance from ERA is included in grants if received from the US through the World Bank account, and in loans if received from other partners.

Source: Ministry of Finance

External borrowings amounted to UAH 53 bn equivalent in July. In particular, Ukraine received USD 690 m from the IMF after the successful completion of the first programme review. Overall, the IMF recognised the structural benchmark in taxation as not met, but agreed to complete the review by replacing it with new benchmarks: abolishing the VAT exemption for entrepreneurs under the simplified taxation system and taxing all parcels. Ukraine also received financing from the World Bank under the First Jobs and Private Sector Growth Development Policy Operation (DPO) and under the new World Bank SPIRIT project to support social protection for vulnerable groups.

Ukraine is still behind in the implementation of the Ukraine Plan: around EUR 7 bn is linked to unfulfilled indicators for 2025 and the first half of 2026. There is a risk that the implementation of

Q3 2026 indicators will also face delays. Therefore, the Prime Minister's statements on intensifying and monitoring Ukraine's fulfilment of commitments are a positive signal.

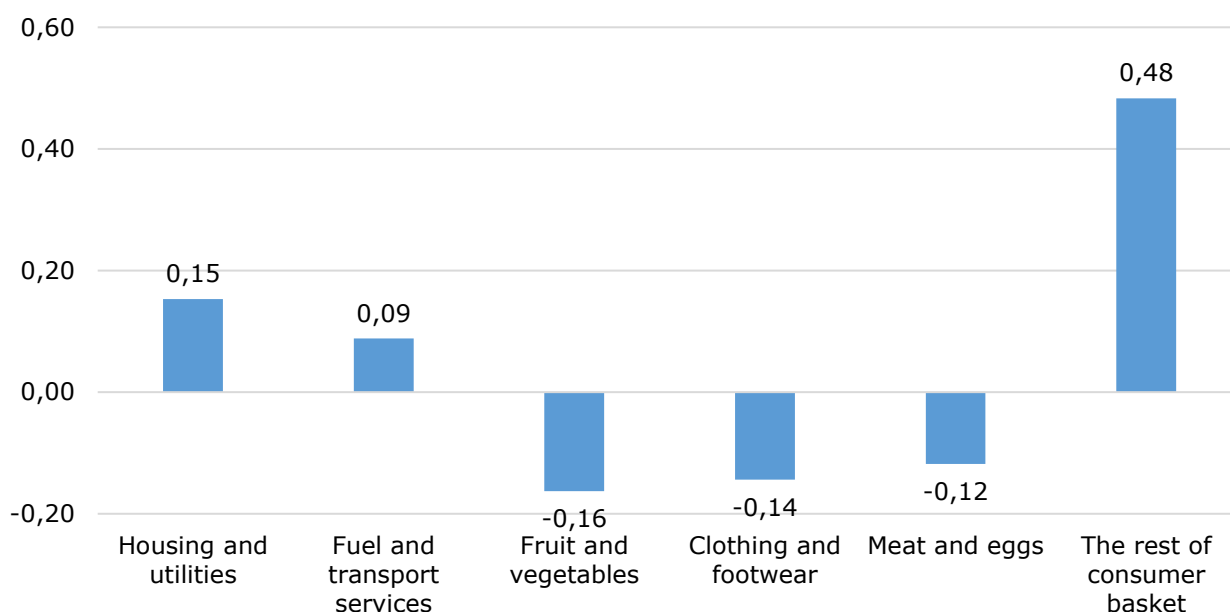
Inflation: Consumer inflation accelerated to 7.7% yoy in July

Consumer inflation accelerated to 7.7% yoy in July from 7.2% yoy in June. This reflected a shift in the seasonal dynamics of vegetable prices, as well as persistent inflationary pressure caused by higher energy costs, russian attacks and inflation expectations.

The CPI increased by 0.3% mom in July 2026, whereas it usually declines slightly in July due to a sharp seasonal drop in vegetable prices. In practice, it seems that in 2026 this seasonal decline partly shifted to June, contributing to lower-than-usual CPI in June and a higher CPI change in July. Prices for meat and eggs continued to decline due to lower export prices, while clothing prices also fell seasonally. On the other hand, transport costs increased again, and water supply and sewage tariffs rose sharply after the authority to set tariffs was transferred to local governments.

Monthly inflation, excluding one-off and seasonal price movements, stood at 0.6% mom. As in June, price increases for a range of goods and services remained elevated compared with the months before the rise in energy prices.

Figure 8: Contributions to the monthly price increase in July, p.p.



Source: Own calculations based on data from the State Statistics Service

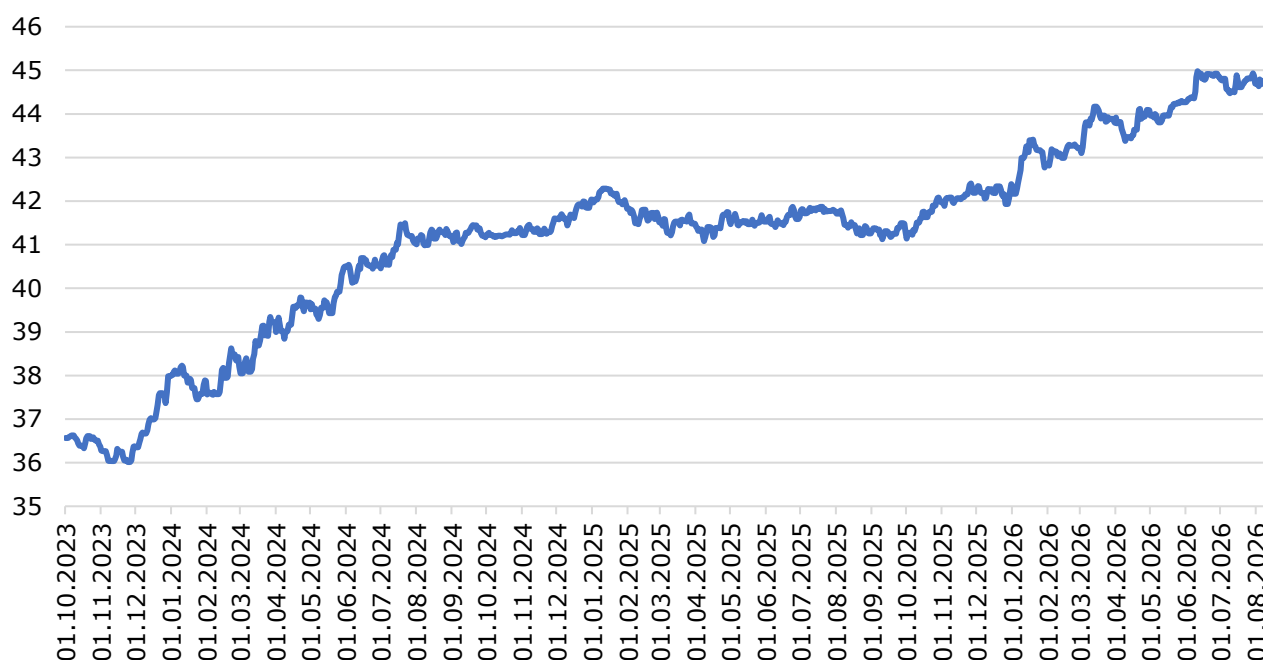
Exchange rate and monetary policy: NBU raised the key policy rate to 15.5%

Exchange rate. The hryvnia exchange rate remained broadly stable against the US dollar and the euro in recent weeks, with the dollar staying below UAH 45/USD. Exchange rate stability was supported by substantial NBU interventions, which reached USD 4.3 bn over the four weeks ending on 16 August. This may reflect the NBU's efforts to balance higher fiscal spending following increased inflows of external assistance to the budget.

Net demand for foreign currency from corporate bank clients remained high, but declined somewhat due to increased supply. NBU international reserves remained almost unchanged in July and stood at USD 51.2 bn at the end of the month. The Government attracted USD 1.2 bn in donor assistance, including from the IMF, and also sold USD 3.4 bn from the defence tranche of the Ukraine Support Loan to the NBU. Before conversion, these funds were not included in reserves due to restrictions on their use. However, after they were transferred to the NBU in exchange for hryvnias for the Government, these restrictions ceased to apply and the funds were included in reserves. The Government also spent USD 256 m on external debt service. At the same time, NBU interventions to balance the FX market amounted to USD 4.76 bn. Due to a sharp upward revision of the macroeconomic forecast for imports of goods and services, reserves now cover 4.2 months of

imports, according to the NBU estimate, whereas in June this estimate was 5.2 months with a similar level of reserves.

Figure 9: Official exchange rate of the hryvnia to the US dollar (UAH per dollar)



Source: NBU

Monetary policy. At the meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee on 29 July, the NBU raised the key policy rate by 0.5 pp to 15.5% p.a. The decision was supported by nine out of 11 MPC members, who believed that the NBU should not delay monetary tightening amid persistent core inflation pressure, elevated inflation expectations and stronger pro-inflationary risks. They noted that a moderate rate hike would support the attractiveness of hryvnia assets and FX market stability, helping contain price pressures. The decision was more of a signalling move, aimed at drawing the market's attention to the NBU's readiness to raise the rate further if needed in response to inflation risks.

The NBU revised its GDP growth forecast for this year from 1.8% to 1.3% and only slightly raised its inflation forecast to 10% yoy in December 2026, from 9.4% in April, despite increased risks to the economy in July.

FX regulation. From 11 August, the NBU introduced a new package of FX restrictions easing, with the main focus on supporting individuals. For households, the NBU increased the monthly limit for purchasing non-cash foreign currency from UAH 50,000 to UAH 200,000. At the same time, within this limit, individuals are allowed to buy not only foreign currency, but also non-cash bank metals and securities of foreign issuers.

The NBU also increased the daily limit for cash withdrawals from FX accounts in Ukraine and abroad from UAH 100,000 to UAH 200,000. In addition, it expanded opportunities for payments abroad from hryvnia accounts: the monthly limit was increased from UAH 100,000 to UAH 200,000, and within this limit individuals are allowed to pay not only for goods, works and services, but also for housing rent abroad. Such payments can be made not only by card, but also through account-to-account transfers, including via SWIFT.

The NBU allowed individuals to pay for goods, works and services abroad from FX accounts through account-to-account transfers, including via SWIFT, within a separate monthly limit of UAH 200,000. In addition, the monthly limit of UAH 500,000 for accommodation payments abroad using an FX card was also extended to housing rent abroad.

For businesses, the NBU also increased a number of limits. The daily limit for cash withdrawals from hryvnia accounts in Ukraine was increased from UAH 100,000 to UAH 200,000, while the daily limit for cash withdrawals from FX accounts in Ukraine and abroad was also raised to UAH 200,000. The limit for cash withdrawals using hryvnia corporate cards abroad was increased to UAH 140,000 per

month, while the monthly limit for payments abroad using hryvnia corporate cards was raised from UAH 150,000 to UAH 400,000.

In addition, the NBU expanded the mechanism of incentive-based FX liberalisation for businesses. An additional limit was introduced, to be formed on the basis of direct charitable contributions by companies to military units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the National Guard. Companies were also allowed to transfer their investment and additional limits, fully or partially, to related legal entities within the same business group.

Separately, the NBU allowed Ukrainian exporters to pay fines, penalties, bonuses, compensation for costs and damages to non-resident counterparties under goods export contracts. Such transfers are allowed within an annual limit of 10% of the total value of goods supplied to the relevant non-resident.

Contacts:

Institute for Economic Research
and Policy Consulting
st. Reytarska 8/5-A, 01030 Kyiv
Tel. (+38044) 278-6342
E-mail: institute@ier.kyiv.ua
<http://www.ier.com.ua>



Disclaimer

This publication was prepared by the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting. The MEMU is for informational purposes only. The judgments presented in this publication reflect our point of view at the time of publication and are subject to change without notice. Although we have made the most thorough efforts to prepare the most accurate publication, we do not take any responsibility for possible errors. The IER shall not be liable for any damages or other problems that have arisen, directly or indirectly, due to the use of any of the indicators of this publication. In the case of a citation, a reference to the IER is mandatory.