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DYNAMICS AND STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATIONS OF UKRAINIAN EXPORT-IMPORT OPERATIONS UNDER MACROECONOMIC CHALLENGES

Abstract. *The study aimed to explore and analyze the evolution of Ukraine's foreign economic activity with a particular focus on export-import operations and their interaction with macroeconomic factors. The concepts of foreign economic activity and export-import operations were defined and expanded to include goods, services, intellectual property, investment, technology transfer, and regulatory frameworks. Statistical data for 1991–2025 were examined to identify the dynamics of foreign trade in goods and services, trade balances, structural shifts, and geographical diversification. The analysis demonstrated sharp fluctuations in exports and imports during the 1990s, subsequent growth in the 2000s, contraction after 2014 due to russian aggression, and partial recovery by 2024, though accompanied by persistent trade deficits. Exports were dominated by metallurgy, agro-industrial products, chemicals, mineral resources, and machinery, whereas imports were concentrated in energy, machinery and equipment, chemicals, and consumer goods. Service exports transitioned from traditional transport to IT and digital services, while imports reflected increasing demand for financial, consulting, and technological services. Average values, trends, and correlations were calculated for 1992–2024, indicating that imports consistently exceeded exports, generating an average annual trade deficit of 6.4 billion USD. Furthermore, a strong correlation between exports and imports was identified ($r \approx 0.98$), signifying proportional movements, while elasticity analysis revealed a high sensitivity of the trade deficit to inflationary changes. Periods of hyperinflation, devaluation, and war underscored the dual role of inflation as both a constraint on competitiveness and a stimulus to exports through currency depreciation. Key legal and regulatory frameworks governing export-import operations in Ukraine were systematized, including customs, tax, licensing, currency, and safety regulations, alongside international agreements such as the Association Agreement with the EU. The study also highlighted the structural resilience of agricultural exports and IT services, which emerged as the most adaptive sectors under conditions of war and global crises. The practical significance of this research lies in its contribution to understanding the interdependence between trade, inflation, and regulation, thereby supporting policymaking aimed at strengthening foreign trade resilience and macroeconomic stability.*

Keywords: foreign economic activity, export-import operations, trade balance, export, import, inflation, trade deficit.

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ДИНАМІКА ТА СТРУКТУРНІ ТРАНСФОРМАЦІЇ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ЕКСПОРТНО-ІМПОРТНИХ ОПЕРАЦІЙ В УМОВАХ МАКРОЕКОНОМІЧНИХ ВИКЛИКІВ

Анотація. *Метою дослідження було вивчення та аналіз еволюції зовнішньоекономічної діяльності України з особливим акцентом на експортно-імпортних операціях та їх взаємодії з макроекономічними факторами. Поняття зовнішньоекономічної діяльності та експортно-імпортних операцій були визначені та розширені, включивши товари, послуги, інтелектуальну власність, інвестиції, трансфер технологій та регуляторну базу. Було досліджено статистичні дані за 1991–2025 роки для визначення динаміки зовнішньої торгівлі товарами та послугами, торговельних балансів, структурних зрушень та географічної диверсифікації. Аналіз продемонстрував різкі коливання експорту та імпорту протягом 1990-х років, подальше зростання у 2000-х роках, скорочення після 2014 року через російську агресію та часткове відновлення до 2024 року, хоча воно й супроводжувалося стійким торговельним дефіцитом. Експорт складався переважно з металургії, агропромислової продукції, хімікатів, мінеральних ресурсів та машин, тоді як імпорт був зосереджений в енергетиці, машинах та обладнанні, хімікатах та споживчих товарах. Експорт послуг перейшов від традиційного транспорту до ІТ та цифрових послуг, тоді як імпорт відображав зростаючий попит на фінансові, консалтингові та технологічні послуги. Середні значення, тенденції та кореляції були розраховані за 1992–2024 роки, що свідчить про те, що імпорт постійно перевищував експорт, створюючи середньорічний торговельний дефіцит у розмірі 6,4 млрд доларів США. Крім того, було виявлено сильну кореляцію між експортом та імпортом ($r \approx 0,98$), що свідчить про пропорційні зміни, тоді як аналіз еластичності виявив високу чутливість торговельного дефіциту до інфляційних змін. Періоди гіперінфляції, девальвації та війни підкреслили подвійну роль інфляції як обмеження конкурентоспроможності та стимулу експорту через знецінення валюти. Було систематизовано ключові правові та регуляторні бази, що регулюють експортно-імпортні операції в Україні, включаючи митні, податкові, ліцензійні, валютні та безпекові норми, а також міжнародні угоди, такі як Угода про асоціацію з ЄС. У дослідженні також було висвітлено структурну стійкість сільськогосподарського експорту та ІТ-послуг, які стали найбільш адаптивними секторами в умовах війни та глобальних криз. Практичне значення цього дослідження полягає в його внеску в розуміння взаємозалежності між торгівлею, інфляцією та регулюванням, тим самим підтримуючи політику, спрямовану на зміцнення стійкості зовнішньої торгівлі та макроекономічної стабільності.*

Ключові слова: зовнішньоекономічна діяльність, експортно-імпортні операції, торговельний баланс, експорт, імпорт, інфляція, торговельний дефіцит.

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Statement of the problem. One of the key components of sustainable economic growth is the development of foreign economic activity, which ensures the integration of a national economy into global markets. For Ukraine, foreign trade plays a decisive role, as it forms a significant share of GDP and determines the country's competitiveness in the international arena. Export-import operations not only generate foreign currency inflows but also provide access to advanced technologies, resources, and goods, thereby directly influencing production efficiency and consumer welfare.

At the same time, Ukraine's foreign trade is highly sensitive to external shocks and internal transformations. Periods of global crises, inflationary fluctuations, and geopolitical challenges - including russian aggression since 2014 and the full-scale war since 2022 - have significantly affected trade volumes, structure, and geographical orientation. Moreover, regulatory reforms and the reorientation of trade flows towards the European Union have become crucial determinants of Ukraine's trade policy.

Therefore, the assessment of export-import operations, their structure and dynamics, as well as their interrelation with macroeconomic factors, is an important scientific and practical task. Such analysis makes it possible to identify the main risks and opportunities of foreign trade development, evaluate the resilience of different sectors, and substantiate recommendations aimed at strengthening the stability of Ukraine's economy in conditions of uncertainty and global transformations.

Research methods. The research methodology is based on a comprehensive analysis of statistical data and economic indicators reflecting the dynamics of Ukraine's foreign trade, combining quantitative, qualitative, analytical, and comparative approaches to ensure a systematic assessment over the period 1991–2025. The empirical foundation relies on official data from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, the National Bank of Ukraine, the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Eurostat, the World Bank, and other international databases.

Quantitative methods included time series analysis to identify general trends in exports, imports, and the trade balance; correlation analysis to examine relationships between trade dynamics and factors such as inflation and currency fluctuations; elasticity calculations to

assess the sensitivity of the trade deficit to changes in inflation and exchange rates; and trend modeling to forecast medium- and long-term developments under various scenarios. To ensure comparability, average values, growth rates, and structural shifts were calculated for selected intervals. Structural and sectoral analysis focused on the commodity composition of exports and imports, with particular attention to metallurgical, agro-industrial, chemical, mineral, and machine-building products, as well as IT and transport services, evaluating the resilience of specific sectors during crises and wartime conditions.

Geographical analysis examined the diversification of trade flows, assessing the roles of the EU at different stages of economic development and highlighting shifts caused by geopolitical changes and integration processes. Graphical and tabular methods, including charts, figures, and tables, were used to visualize the dynamics of trade flows, commodity and geographical structures, and the evolution of the trade balance, facilitating interpretation and practical application of results.

Qualitative methods complemented the statistical analysis, interpreting findings in the context of macroeconomic shocks, regulatory transformations, integration with the EU, global crises, and wartime challenges, providing a holistic understanding of causal relationships and factors influencing foreign trade. The study period was divided into four stages: 1991–2000, covering the transformation of Ukraine's foreign trade system during the post-Soviet transition; 2001–2013, reflecting stabilization and growth amid global integration; 2014–2021, highlighting structural shifts and reorientation toward the EU following russian aggression; and 2022–2025, assessing the impact of full-scale war and international support mechanisms. This integrated methodological approach enabled the identification of key trends, risks, and prospects of Ukraine's export-import activity, forming a basis for scientific generalizations and policy recommendations.

Presentation of the main research results. Foremost, it is necessary to supplement and expand the concepts of foreign economic activity and export-import operations.

Foreign economic activity, as an integral component of the international economy, reflects global processes and trends and constitutes a complex system of economic relations that encompasses the export and import of goods and services, direct and portfolio investments, licensing, franchising, and technology transfer; moreover, it involves the conclusion and implementation of foreign trade contracts, international credits, cooperation in the scientific and technological sphere, participation in international financial operations and currency settlements, as well as the organization and management of logistics and transport processes; furthermore, it includes state regulation and control of this sphere, thereby serving as a crucial factor for foreign currency inflows and the balance of payments equilibrium of the country.

Export-import operations represent a set of commercial contracts and procedures, that is, a complex of actions undertaken by enterprises and organizations which involve the export and import of goods, services, works, capital, intellectual property, and the rights thereto. Specifically, these rights encompass patents, utility models, industrial designs, copyrights and related rights, trademarks, trade names, geographical indications, topographies of integrated circuits, know-how, as well as contractual rights and obligations such as franchises, concessions, and claims under agreements. Moreover, export-import operations also extend to emission quotas for greenhouse gases, rights to use natural resources, licenses for software or digital content, and access to databases, platforms, and networks. Consequently, this comprehensive structure highlights not only the traditional trade in goods and services but also the growing importance of intellectual, technological, and environmental assets in shaping modern international exchange.

To understand the trajectory of Ukraine's economic development, it is essential to examine the dynamics of its foreign trade in goods and services over the period from 1991 to 2025.

In 1991, the total volume of Ukraine's foreign trade in goods amounted to approximately 50.1% of GDP, thereby reflecting a high degree of integration of the national economy into international markets; consequently, foreign trade exerted a considerable influence on the economy in the period following the restoration of independence. Simultaneously, the trade balance remained positive at about +1.68 billion USD. In 1992, foreign trade turnover accounted for nearly 45.9% of GDP, which indicates a substantial dependence of the economy on external markets; moreover, the balance of trade continued to be positive, reaching +1.47 billion USD. Exports of goods amounted to roughly 8.0 billion USD, whereas the share of imports in GDP equaled 22%. In 1993, Ukraine traded with more than 180 countries worldwide; furthermore, the total volume of foreign trade turnover was about 28.5 billion USD (exports – 14.58 billion, imports – 13.96 billion), thus ensuring a positive trade balance of 0.62 billion USD. Exports were characterized by the predominance of metallurgical products (pig iron, rolled ferrous metals, steel), agricultural goods (grain, sunflower oil, sugar), machinery and equipment (especially electrical engineering), chemical products (nitrogen fertilizers, soda ash), and means of transport (diesel locomotives, aircraft, excavators). Imports, conversely, concentrated on machinery and equipment, chemical goods, transport vehicles, as well as foodstuffs (coffee, tea, chocolate) and textiles. In the services sector, Ukraine predominantly exported transport and tourism services; likewise, the structure of service imports remained similar. In 1994, foreign trade turnover increased by 3.3% compared with 1993, amounting to 28.8 billion USD (exports – 15.1 billion, imports – 13.7 billion), thereby generating a positive balance of 1.4 billion USD. The export structure remained stable, with the dominance of metallurgy, agricultural products, chemical goods, machine building, and transport equipment, while imports consisted of machinery and equipment, chemical products, transport, food, and textiles. In the sphere of services, transport and tourism continued to prevail. Moreover, trade with

the European Union (Germany, Poland, Italy) as well as with partners in Asia and the Americas (China, the United States, Canada) expanded, thus indicating a gradual diversification of Ukraine's external economic relations. In 1995, nevertheless, despite the economic difficulties of the transition period, foreign trade remained dynamic. Exports were dominated by ferrous and non-ferrous metals, chemical products, machinery and equipment, agricultural goods (grain, oil, meat), as well as textiles and clothing. Imports, on the other hand, were concentrated on energy resources (oil, natural gas, coal), machinery and equipment for industrial modernization, chemical products, and transport vehicles. In the services sector, transport operations - particularly pipeline transit - played a major role, in addition to tourism and financial services. Information technologies, which became a significant export item in the 2000s, did not yet exert a noticeable impact on the balance of payments in the mid-1990s. In 1996, exports of goods amounted to 14,400 million USD, whereas imports reached 17,603 million USD, consequently generating a negative trade balance of –3,203 million USD. In the export structure, semi-finished products (51.62%), consumer goods (20.02%), raw materials (13.66%), and capital goods (13.53%) predominated; conversely, imports were composed mainly of consumer goods (52.37%), capital goods (16.93%), semi-finished products (15.78%), and raw materials (14.00%). In the segment of commercial services, exports were almost entirely concentrated in transportation (83.22%). In 1997, exports totaled 14,217 million USD, while imports amounted to 17,125 million USD, thus leading to a merchandise trade deficit of –2,908 million USD. Exports and imports of services reached 4.5 billion and 4.1 billion USD, respectively; accordingly, the balance was positive at +0.4 billion USD. In 1998, exports stood at 12,637 million USD, and imports at 14,676 million USD; therefore, the trade balance equaled –2,039 million USD. In 1999, exports of goods amounted to 11,582 million USD, while imports totaled 11,846 million USD; nevertheless, this resulted in only a minor deficit of –264 million USD.

In 2000, exports amounted to 14.58 billion USD, and imports to 13.96 billion USD, thereby securing a positive balance of 0.62 billion USD. Exports were dominated by ferrous metals and related products (over 40% of revenues), chemical industry products, and foodstuffs, while imports were mainly composed of energy resources as well as machinery and equipment from EU countries. In services trade, transportation prevailed (79%); moreover, the share of information and business services gradually increased. In 2001, exports reached 16.27 billion USD, and imports 15.78 billion USD, ensuring a positive trade balance of 0.49 billion USD. The export structure consisted of intermediate goods (49%), consumer goods (19%), raw materials (12%), and capital goods (12%). Imports were dominated by consumer goods (40%), raw materials (21%), intermediate goods (18%), and capital goods (12%). Exports of services amounted to approximately 4.5 billion USD, while imports equaled 4.1 billion USD, thus producing a surplus of 0.4 billion USD. The main categories included transport, business services, travel, communication, and IT services. In 2002, exports of goods totaled 17.93 billion USD, whereas imports reached 16.98 billion USD, generating a positive balance of 0.95 billion USD. The export structure remained metallurgy- and agriculture-oriented: ferrous metals (30%), grain crops (20%), mineral products (15%), machinery and equipment (10%), and organic chemicals (5%). Imports, in addition, consisted of machinery and equipment (25%), mineral products (20%), chemical goods (15%), transport equipment (10%), and food products (5%). Exports of services were 4.5 billion USD, imports 4.1 billion USD, thereby producing a surplus of 0.4 billion USD. In 2003, exports rose to 23.07 billion USD, while imports stood at 23.02 billion USD, thus ensuring a modest surplus of 0.047 billion USD. The export structure was dominated by ferrous metals (30%), grain (20%), mineral products (15%), machinery and equipment (10%), and organic chemicals (5%), whereas imports were led by machinery and equipment (25%), mineral products (20%), chemical goods (15%), transport vehicles (10%), and food products (5%). Exports of services reached 4.5 billion USD, and imports 4.1 billion USD, consequently generating a surplus of +0.4 billion USD. This positive balance was primarily driven by transportation services, which accounted for more than 80% of service exports. Thereafter, the total volume of exports and imports of services amounted to 19.93% of GDP. In 2004, exports ranged between 32.6–33.0 billion USD, while imports stood at 29.0–33.5 billion USD, thereby producing either a near-zero or slightly positive trade balance. The export structure consisted mainly of ferrous metals (31.2%), grain (17.5%), mineral products (10.3%), machinery and equipment (9.1%), organic chemicals (6.8%), and non-ferrous metals (5.4%). Imports included machinery and equipment (19.6%), mineral products (17.8%), chemical goods (13.5%), transport equipment (9.9%), and foodstuffs (7.2%). Ukraine's trade in services maintained a positive balance: service exports equaled 5.31 billion USD, while imports totaled 2.01 billion USD, resulting in a surplus of +3.3 billion USD. The principal items of service exports included transport services (maritime, railway, pipeline, and air), business, professional, and technical services, repair services, and communication services. Furthermore, the growth of service exports was largely attributed to an increase in freight transportation and the provision of business and technical services. Imports of services rose due to increasing demand for financial, communication, and transport services. In 2005, Ukraine's exports of goods amounted to 35.0 billion USD, while imports equaled 36.2 billion USD, thereby causing a deficit in merchandise trade of about –1.1 billion USD. Nevertheless, foreign trade in services recorded a distinct surplus: exports reached 9.35 billion USD, and imports 7.55 billion USD, which ensured a positive balance of more than +1.8 billion USD. Consequently, the overall balance of goods and services was positive at +0.67 billion USD. The structure of merchandise exports was dominated by intermediate goods (55.7%), consumer goods (19.8%), capital goods (12.0%), and raw materials (11.7%). The main export categories

included ferrous metals, grain crops, and mineral products. In machinery exports, electrical machines and equipment (over 1.5 billion USD) and transport vehicles (approximately 1 billion USD) held leading positions. Imports were dominated by consumer goods (36%), capital goods (23%), and raw materials and intermediates (about 20% each), with machinery, equipment, and energy resources playing a central role. In the agricultural sector, grain crops such as wheat and corn remained key, while sunflower oil exports reached about 1.0 million tons, accounting for 20–25% of global trade in this product. In metallurgy, Ukraine remained one of the leading exporters, with exports of steel and metallurgical products exceeding 20 million tons. Coal exports were limited (a few million tons annually), natural gas was almost not exported, as Ukraine primarily acted as a transit country, while crude oil exports remained minor and were regulated by state quotas. In the services sector, transportation and business operations prevailed, whereas tourism services generated exports worth 3.125 billion USD against imports of 2.805 billion USD, thus resulting in a positive balance of approximately +320 million USD.

In 2006, external trade demonstrated dynamism and growth in both exports and imports. Merchandise exports amounted to USD 38.4 billion, with semi-finished commodities accounting for the largest share – 59.05% (USD 22.7 billion), followed by consumer goods – 17.21% (USD 6.6 billion), capital goods – 12.17% (USD 4.7 billion), and raw materials – 10.52% (USD 4.0 billion). Imports reached USD 45.0 billion, dominated by mineral products (33.4%), machinery and equipment (18.7%), chemical products (13.9%), transport equipment (9.3%), polymers (5.0%), non-precious metals (6.5%), and food industry products (4.2%). In the sphere of commercial services, exports amounted to approximately USD 10.7 billion, with transport services prevailing (62.5%), followed by business services (8.7%), travel (6.1%), communication services (4.8%), computer and information services (3.5%), royalties (0.4%), and other services (14.0%). Imports of services reached USD 8.5 billion, consisting primarily of transport (40.7%), travel (20.2%), business services (16.9%), royalties (4.6%), communication (3.3%), computer and information services (2.1%), and other services (12.2%). In 2007, merchandise exports increased to USD 49.3 billion, while imports reached USD 60.0 billion, resulting in a negative trade balance of –USD 10.7 billion. Exports were dominated by metals and metal products (47.3%), machinery and transport equipment (10.9%), foodstuffs and agricultural commodities (9.3%), and chemical products (8.8%). Imports were largely composed of mineral products (40.5%), machinery and transport (24.7%), chemicals (13.0%), and food products (7.3%). Exports of commercial services amounted to USD 12.0 billion, with transport accounting for 66.5%, processing of material resources 9.9%, and communication and IT services 6.0%. Imports of services reached USD 6.0 billion, with transport (32.0%), travel (31.2%), and business services (13.5%) dominating, which ensured a surplus of +USD 6.0 billion. In 2008, external trade volumes expanded further: merchandise exports reached USD 66.95 billion, imports – USD 85.53 billion, producing a deficit of –USD 18.6 billion. Exports mainly comprised ferrous metals (39–40%), mineral products (≈12%), machinery (≈10%), chemical products (8–9%), and plant-based commodities (≈7%). Imports were dominated by mineral products (≈34–35%), machinery and transport equipment (≈21–23%), chemicals (14–15%), polymers (≈5%), and food commodities (≈5%). Trade in commercial services displayed positive dynamics: exports amounted to USD 129.87 million, while imports reached USD 105.88 million, yielding a surplus of USD 23.99 million. The structure of service exports was dominated by transport (62.5%), business services (8.7%), travel (6.1%), communication (4.8%), computer and information services (3.5%), royalties (0.4%), and other services (14.0%). Service imports comprised transport (40.7%), travel (20.2%), business services (16.9%), royalties (4.6%), communication (3.3%), computer and information services (2.1%), and other services (12.2%). The year 2009, against the background of the global financial crisis, proved recessionary for merchandise trade: exports fell to USD 39.7 billion, imports to USD 45.4 billion, with a negative trade balance of –USD 5.7 billion. Exports were led by non-precious metals (37.9%), plant-based commodities (16.8%), mineral products (10.1%), agricultural fats and oils (6.7%), food products (4.5%), chemicals (7.2%), machinery (8.1%), and other goods (7.3%). Imports were composed of mineral products (33.4%), machinery and equipment (18.7%), transport equipment (9.3%), chemicals (13.9%), polymers (5.0%), non-precious metals (6.5%), food products (4.2%), and other goods (7.2%). Exports of services reached USD 10.1 billion (transport – 62.5%, business – 8.7%, travel – 6.1%, communication – 4.8%, computer and information – 3.5%, royalties – 0.4%, other – 14.0%), while imports totaled USD 9.1 billion (transport – 40.7%, travel – 20.2%, business – 16.9%, royalties – 4.6%, communication – 3.3%, computer – 2.1%, other – 12.2%). The positive balance in services partly compensated for the merchandise trade deficit.

In 2010, Ukraine's external trade in goods and services showed relative stabilization after the 2008–2009 global financial crisis. Merchandise exports reached USD 51.43 billion, an increase of 29.6% compared to 2009, while imports totaled USD 60.74 billion, a rise of 33.7%. The negative trade balance in goods amounted to –USD 9.31 billion. Exports were composed mainly of non-precious metals (37.9%), plant-based commodities (16.8%), mineral products (10.1%), agricultural fats and oils (6.7%), food products (4.5%), chemicals (7.2%), machinery and equipment (8.1%), and other goods (7.3%). Imports were dominated by mineral products (33.4%), machinery and equipment (18.7%), transport equipment (9.3%), chemicals (13.9%), polymers (5.0%), non-precious metals (6.5%), food products (4.2%), and other goods (7.2%). In terms of commercial services, exports totaled USD 10.1 billion, imports – USD 9.1 billion, producing a surplus of USD 1.0 billion. Export services included transport (62.5%), business services (8.7%), travel (6.1%), communication (4.8%), computer and information

services (3.5%), royalties (0.4%), and other (14.0%). Imports of services were led by transport (40.7%), travel (20.2%), business services (16.9%), royalties (4.6%), communication (3.3%), computer and information (2.1%), and other services (12.2%). In 2011, external trade in goods and services was recovering after the global financial crisis of 2008–2009. The overall external trade turnover amounted to approximately USD 165 billion. Exports of goods and services reached around USD 83 billion, while imports were nearly USD 82 billion, resulting in an almost balanced trade account. Merchandise exports were valued at USD 68.39 billion, dominated by metallurgical products (ferrous and non-ferrous metals and related articles), which accounted for more than one-third of Ukraine's exports. Significant contributions also came from machinery and transport equipment, as well as chemical products, including mineral fertilizers and organic chemicals. In the agricultural sector, cereals (wheat, maize, barley), sunflower oil, and other plant-based commodities constituted the core of exports. Merchandise imports reached approximately USD 82.61 billion, with a heavy concentration on energy commodities, particularly natural gas and crude oil, in addition to machinery, equipment, transport vehicles, chemical products (such as polymers and pharmaceuticals), and consumer goods. Natural gas alone was estimated at USD 14.05 billion. Exports of commercial services exceeded USD 13.6976 billion, largely consisting of transport services, including energy transit to EU countries, as well as IT, construction, and business services. Imports of services stood at USD 6.248 billion, dominated by transport, financial, and insurance services, which ensured a service trade surplus of approximately USD 7.4496 billion. Germany, Italy, and Poland were the principal markets for Ukrainian machinery, equipment, and agricultural commodities, while Turkey, North African states, and Middle East were key destinations for grain and vegetable oil. In 2012, Ukraine's external trade was marked by a significant trade deficit. Merchandise exports amounted to USD 68.81 billion, while imports reached USD 84.66 billion, generating a negative trade balance of –USD 15.85 billion. Exports were dominated by ferrous metals and articles thereof (28%), cereals (16%), ores, slag, and ash (10%), vegetable oils and fats (8%), machinery and transport equipment (10%), and chemical products (6%). Imports were led by mineral products, including crude oil, natural gas, and fuels (35%), machinery and equipment (20%), chemical products (12%), transport equipment (7%), and polymers, plastics, and rubber (5%). Exports of commercial services amounted to USD 19.8 billion, while imports totaled USD 14.647 billion, yielding a surplus of USD 5.153 billion. The main categories of service exports included transport (≈42.9%), travel/tourism (≈24.5%), computer and information services (≈5%), and other services such as construction, financial, and telecommunications. Imports of services were dominated by travel (≈34.8%), transport (≈28.3%), and financial and IT services in smaller proportions. In 2013, the negative trade balance remained a defining feature. Merchandise exports reached approximately USD 63.5 billion, while imports stood at around USD 79.5 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of roughly –USD 16 billion. The export structure was dominated by plant-based commodities (≈21%), mineral products (≈19%), ferrous metals (≈18%), and machinery, equipment, and electrical products (≈11%). Imports were composed mainly of mineral products (≈24%), machinery, equipment, and electrical goods (≈21%), chemical industry products (≈14%), and transport vehicles and road equipment (≈9%). Exports of commercial services totaled about USD 7.2 billion, while imports were valued at approximately USD 5.3 billion, creating a surplus of around USD 1.9 billion. Export services were led by transport (≈40%), IT and telecommunications (≈30%), and professional and consulting services (≈15%). Imports of services were dominated by transport (≈35%), professional and consulting services (≈25%), and financial services (≈15%). Geographically, the EU accounted for nearly 38% of exports and about 34% of imports.

In 2014, external trade continued to record a deficit. Merchandise exports totaled approximately USD 40.5 billion, while imports amounted to around USD 55.2 billion, resulting in a negative trade balance of about –USD 14.7 billion. The export structure comprised plant-based commodities (≈20%), mineral products (≈18%), ferrous metals (≈17%), and machinery, equipment, and electrical products (≈10%). Imports were shaped by mineral products (≈25%), machinery, equipment, and electrical goods (≈20%), chemical industry products (≈15%), and transport vehicles and road equipment (≈10%). Exports of commercial services reached about USD 7.5 billion, while imports amounted to roughly USD 5.5 billion, producing a service surplus of around USD 2 billion. Export services were dominated by transport (≈40%), IT and telecommunications (≈30%), and professional and consulting services (≈15%). Imports of services consisted mainly of transport (≈35%), professional and consulting services (≈25%), and financial services (≈15%). The EU remained Ukraine's principal trading partner, accounting for approximately 40% of exports and 35% of imports. In 2015, external trade was characterized by a positive balance. Merchandise exports amounted to USD 38.1 billion, while imports totaled USD 37.5 billion, producing a surplus of USD 0.6 billion. The export structure was led by agro-industrial products (31.1%), ferrous metallurgy (24.8%), machinery and engineering goods (12.1%), mineral raw commodities (8.1%), processed food products (6.5%), chemical industry goods (5.6%), wood and wood products (2.9%), with other goods making up 8.2%. Imports were dominated by mineral raw commodities (31.2%), machinery and engineering (21.4%), chemical industry products (13.3%), polymeric materials and plastics (7.1%), ferrous metallurgy products (5.3%), agro-industrial goods (5.1%), processed food products (4.3%), textiles and textile products (3.8%), and other goods (8.5%). Exports of commercial services reached USD 4.8 billion, while imports totaled USD 3.7 billion, ensuring a surplus of USD 1.1 billion. Transport services remained the backbone of service exports.

In 2016, exports of goods amounted to USD 36.1 billion, while imports reached USD 38.1 billion, which consequently led to a trade deficit of USD –2.0 billion. Geographically, the European Union remained the main trading partner, accounting for 38.5% of exports and 40.1% of imports. The principal export commodities included metals and articles thereof (20.3%), products of plant origin (19.8%), machinery, equipment, and mechanisms (13.2%), mineral products (10.7%), chemical industry products (8.1%), as well as wood and wooden articles (6.4%). Meanwhile, the leading imported commodities were mineral products (20.2%), machinery, equipment, and mechanisms (18.6%), chemical industry products (11.3%), transport vehicles (10.5%), polymer materials and plastics (6.8%), and food industry products (6.4%). With regard to trade in services, exports reached USD 5.5 billion, whereas imports amounted to USD 4.3 billion, thereby generating a surplus of USD 1.2 billion. The main categories of exported services comprised transport services (39.2%), other business services (22.8%), processing of goods for further manufacture (13.1%), information services (9.4%), and financial services (6.7%). Conversely, imports of services were dominated by transport services (31.5%), other business services (26.7%), financial services (14.2%), information services (9.3%), and processing of goods (6.1%). In 2017, exports of goods equaled USD 36.1 billion, while imports rose to USD 41.5 billion, which thus resulted in a negative balance of USD –5.4 billion. The principal exports included products of plant origin (22.3%), ferrous metals (19.1%), mineral products (13.4%), animal and vegetable fats and oils (10.2%), machinery and electrical equipment (9.4%), chemical products (6.8%), and wood (5.7%). Imports were led by mineral products (20.5%), machinery and equipment (18.7%), chemical industry products (13.2%), transport vehicles (10.1%), polymers and plastics (6.8%), food industry products (5.3%), as well as textiles and clothing (4.2%). Furthermore, service exports amounted to USD 10.7 billion, whereas imports totaled USD 6.5 billion, yielding a surplus of USD 4.2 billion.

In 2018, exports of goods rose to USD 49.0 billion, whereas imports expanded to USD 60.0 billion, consequently producing a deficit of USD –11.0 billion. The structure of exports was dominated by plant products (22.3%), ferrous metals (19.1%), mineral products (13.4%), fats and oils (10.2%), machinery and equipment (9.4%), chemical industry products (6.8%), and wood (5.7%). Imports consisted mainly of mineral products (20.5%), machinery and equipment (18.7%), chemical industry products (13.2%), transport vehicles (10.1%), polymers and plastics (6.8%), food products (5.3%), and textiles and clothing (4.2%). Service exports reached approximately USD 11.85 billion, representing a 10.6% increase year-on-year, while imports of services grew by 6.0% to USD 5.81 billion. Accordingly, the surplus in trade in services stood at roughly USD 6.04 billion, with an export-to-import coverage ratio of 2.04. In the structure of service exports, transport dominated at USD 4.3 billion (49.3%), including over USD 2.2 billion from pipeline transport. Thereafter, processing of materials generated USD 2.08 billion (18.5%), while telecommunications, computer, and information services reached USD 1.5 billion (16.7%). Moreover, tourism services amounted to USD 1.45 billion, whereas their imports reached USD 7.9 billion, which consequently produced a negative balance of over USD –6.4 billion in the tourism sector. In 2019, exports of goods amounted to USD 49.6 billion, while imports stood at USD 57.1 billion, thereby forming a deficit of USD –7.5 billion. Exports of services totaled USD 11.8 billion, compared to imports of USD 5.8 billion, generating a surplus of USD 6.0 billion. The composition of exports of goods was represented by plant products (45%), ferrous metals (20%), machinery and equipment (11%), mineral products (10%), and chemicals (5%). Imports of goods consisted predominantly of mineral products (20%), machinery and equipment (19%), transport vehicles (10%), chemical products (13%), and polymers (6%). The total value of service exports approached USD 15.5 billion, which represented a 5.5% increase compared to 2018, whereas imports of services expanded by 4.2% to USD 6.4 billion. Thus, the surplus in external trade in services was approximately USD 9.1 billion, and the export-to-import coverage ratio remained high at 2.42. In terms of structure, transport services accounted for USD 4.3 billion (36.4%), processing of materials USD 2.08 billion (13.6%), telecommunications and information services USD 1.5 billion (12.7%), business services USD 1.2 billion (10.2%), tourism USD 1.45 billion (9.3%), and other services USD 2.1 billion (17.8%). Imports of services were shaped mainly by transport (24.6%), processing (17.5%), telecommunications and IT (14%), business services (12.3%), tourism (10.5%), and other services (21.1%).

In 2020, the combined export of goods and services amounted to roughly USD 59 billion, of which goods constituted USD 41.1 billion. Imports of goods reached approximately USD 49.5 billion, thereby producing a deficit of about USD –8.4 billion. Exports of services stood at USD 15.5 billion, while imports contracted to USD 2.4 billion, which consequently yielded a surplus of USD 13.1 billion. The structure of exports was dominated by food and agricultural products (45.1%), ferrous metals (18.3%), machinery (11%), mineral products (10.8%), chemical products (5.5%), wood and paper (3.7%), industrial goods (3.4%), and apparel and footwear (2.2%). Imports included machinery and equipment (13.1%), land transport (11.4%), energy resources (8.5%), electrical machinery (8.2%), pharmaceuticals (7.5%), polymers (5.6%), other chemicals (3.3%), and paper (2.5%). Service exports amounted to USD 11.2 billion, or 71.5% of the 2019 level, while imports fell to USD 5.2 billion, or 75% of the previous year's figure. Nevertheless, the positive balance of services trade stood at USD 5.96 billion, with an export-to-import coverage ratio of 2.14. In the structure of exports, transport services remained leading (31.8%), processing accounted for 19.4%, business services for 8.0%, telecommunications and IT for 7.8%, while other services contributed 1.7%. Imports, on the other hand, were dominated by transport (28.2%), processing (5.8%), business services

(2.8%), IT (4.4%), and other services (1.9%). In 2021, exports of goods rose significantly to USD 68.1 billion, while imports reached USD 72.8 billion, thus resulting in a negative balance of USD –4.7 billion. Year-on-year, exports expanded by 38.3% and imports by 34.7%. The EU accounted for 39.4% of exports and 39.8% of imports. The structure of exports included non-precious metals (23.5%, of which ferrous metals 20.5%), plant products (22.8%, including cereals 18.1%), mineral products (12.4%), fats and oils (10.3%), machinery and electrical equipment (7.7%), chemical products (4.1%), and wood (2.9%). Imports comprised mineral products (20.6%, including fuels 19.7%), machinery and equipment (19.5%), transport vehicles (10.4%), chemical products (13.4%), polymers (6.6%), food and beverages (4.9%), textiles and clothing (3.7%), and non-precious metals (6%). Service exports amounted to USD 12.8 billion, while imports equaled USD 8.0 billion, ensuring a surplus of USD 4.8 billion. The structure of service exports was dominated by computer services (24.7%), pipeline transport (20.4%), processing (12%), air transport (8.2%), information and professional services (6% each), and maritime transport (4.8%). Conversely, imports were concentrated in travel (20%), other business services (14.3%), government services (13.8%), financial (8.9%), professional (8.1%), maritime (7.5%), air (7.1%), and computer services (5%).

In 2022, due to Russia's full-scale invasion, exports of goods declined sharply to USD 44.1 billion (–35.1% y/y), while imports contracted to USD 55.3 billion (–24.1%), which consequently resulted in a deficit of USD –11.1 billion. The structure of exports was concentrated in food products and raw materials (57.2%), non-precious metals (14.4%), mineral products (10%), machinery and transport (5.6%), wood (5.2%), chemicals (4.1%), and other industrial goods (1.4%). Exports of services reached USD 16.6 billion, whereas imports surged to USD 27.7 billion, thereby generating a deficit of USD –11.1 billion. Exported services consisted mainly of computer services (44%), transport (29%), processing (9%), business services (7%), and travel (3%). Meanwhile, imports included travel (USD 7.3 billion), transport (USD 7.0 billion), business services (USD 1.9 billion), computer services (USD 0.6 billion), government services (USD 0.7 billion), financial (USD 0.5 billion), insurance (USD 0.4 billion), royalties (USD 0.36 billion), construction (USD 0.12 billion), and maintenance (USD 0.26 billion). In 2023, exports of goods fell further to USD 51.1 billion (–11% y/y), whereas imports increased to USD 63.5 billion (+14.4%), leading to a deficit of USD –27.3 billion. The main export categories were plant products (19.2%), non-precious metals (17.6%), cereals (16.3%), ferrous metals (14.5%), mineral products (12.8%), fats and oils (11.1%), chemicals (5.3%), and machinery and equipment (3.2%). The EU accounted for 41.2% of exports and 53% of imports. By processing stage, exports consisted of intermediate goods (46.3%), raw materials (21.5%), capital goods (15.9%), and consumer goods (16.2%); imports were dominated by consumer goods (50.5%), capital goods (19.9%), intermediate goods (18.9%), and raw materials (10.7%). Service exports reached USD 17.5 billion (+5.2%), whereas imports amounted to USD 28.2 billion (+1.8%), thereby producing a deficit of USD -9.3 billion. The structure of service exports was concentrated in computer services (44.2%), processing (32%), business services (7%), transport (5%), and financial services (2.3%). The principal partner countries included Malta (20.4%), Poland (14.4%), Denmark (13.2%), and Germany (11.6%).

In 2024, Ukraine's total trade turnover reached USD 112.3 billion (+13%). Exports of goods amounted to USD 41.6 billion (+13.4%), while imports reached USD 70.7 billion (+11%), which consequently produced a deficit of USD –29.1 billion. The main export categories were foodstuffs (USD 24.6 billion), metals (USD 4.4 billion), and machinery and transport (USD 3.5 billion). Imports were led by machinery and transport (USD 25 billion), chemical products (USD 11.7 billion), and fuel (USD 8.9 billion). The key export partners were Poland (USD 4.7 billion), Spain (USD 2.9 billion), and Germany (USD 2.8 billion), whereas imports were sourced mainly from China (USD 14.4 billion), Poland (USD 7.0 billion), and Germany (USD 5.4 billion). Exports of services reached USD 17.23 billion (+3.8%), while imports fell to USD 22.8 billion (–10%), leading to a services deficit of USD –5.57 billion. The structure of service exports included telecommunications and IT (USD 6.61 billion, of which 37.4% were computer services), transport (USD 4.08 billion, including USD 2.64 billion freight), other business services (USD 3.26 billion, of which USD 2 billion were technical and trade-related), other transport (USD 1.87 billion, including USD 1.53 billion pipeline transport), and travel (USD 1.05 billion). Imports of services, on the other hand, were dominated by travel (USD 14.24 billion, including USD 11.02 billion personal and USD 3.32 billion business), transport (USD 3.32 billion, including USD 1.47 billion maritime), other business services (USD 1.46 billion), government services (USD 1.19 billion), and telecommunications/IT (USD 1.12 billion, of which USD 980 million computer services).

In the first half of 2025, Ukraine's foreign trade maintained a deficit pattern, with certain fluctuations in the volumes of exports and imports of goods and services. The total trade turnover in January-June amounted to approximately USD 58.3 billion, of which exports stood at around USD 20.0 billion (a decrease of 4.2% compared to the same period in 2024), whereas imports reached USD 38.6 billion (an increase of 15.6%). Moreover, the core of exports was formed by agricultural products - particularly cereals, oilseeds, and sunflower oil, the latter totaling 2.4 million tons worth USD 2.77 billion - alongside ferrous metals and iron ore, chemical products, and wood and wood-based articles. Meanwhile, imports primarily consisted of machinery and equipment, mineral products (oil and gas), chemical products, and consumer goods; in particular, imports of machinery and equipment grew by 21.2%, chemical products by 7.5%, and consumer goods by 9.3%. For January-July 2025, exports of goods amounted to USD 23.2 billion, of which foodstuffs accounted for USD 13.0 billion, metals and

metal products for USD 2.6 billion, and machinery, equipment, and transport for USD 2.2 billion. Imports reached USD 45.9 billion, comprising machinery, equipment, and transport (USD 18.0 billion), chemical industry products (USD 7.3 billion), and fuel and energy goods (USD 5.9 billion). Consequently, the trade deficit widened to USD 18.5 billion, which indicates Ukraine's growing dependence on imports. In January-February 2025, exports of services decreased by 12% compared to the same period in 2024, mainly because of a decline in transport services, especially pipeline transport. Nevertheless, telecommunications and business services, including legal and consulting, remained significant. Imports of services declined by 5.8% and comprised travel (both business and tourist), transport services (freight and passenger), and business-related services, particularly accounting and auditing. The main trading partners remained the EU, China, Poland, and Germany. Indeed, the EU traditionally serves as the key market for agricultural products. However, in June 2025, temporary trade preferences for Ukrainian agri-food goods in the EU expired, which therefore led to the introduction of new tariffs on exports of corn, sugar, honey, and poultry meat, potentially affecting export volumes and revenues negatively. At the same time, the role of the Solidarity Lanes remains crucial for ensuring export and import logistics under restrictions on seaports. Accordingly, in 2025, Ukraine's foreign trade is characterized by declining exports of goods and services against a background of increasing imports, which thus results in a growing trade deficit. In addition, the new restrictions in the EU's trade policy regarding agricultural products create additional pressure on foreign trade.

Thus, from 1991 to 2024, Ukraine's foreign trade underwent sharp declines in the 1990s, growth in the 2000s, contraction after 2014 due to war, and partial recovery by 2024, with exports reaching about USD 56 billion and increasingly oriented toward the EU.

To assess the evolution of Ukraine's foreign trade, it is necessary to examine the most significant goods and services exported and imported annually from 1991 to 2025.

Throughout the period from 1991 to 2025, Ukraine's foreign trade in goods and services underwent profound transformations shaped by historical events, structural reforms, and geopolitical challenges; nevertheless, certain sectors consistently remained at the core of its international exchange. In terms of goods exports, metals and metallurgical products, agricultural commodities, and chemical goods retained their leading positions, though their relative importance shifted over time. During the 1990s, at the onset of independence, exports were dominated by steel, pig iron, rolled metals, grains, sunflower oil, sugar, machinery (especially transport equipment and industrial machines), and fertilizers; however, declining competitiveness and the collapse of Soviet-era markets constrained growth. Subsequently, from 2001 to 2013, integration into the global economy fostered the expansion of cereal exports (wheat and corn), sunflower oil, metals, fertilizers, polymers, and machinery such as tractors and vehicles, with growth supported by currency stabilization and strengthened ties with the EU. During 2014-2021, against the backdrop of war in eastern Ukraine and economic crisis, exports increasingly relied on grains, oilseeds, steel, fertilizers, and partially recovered machinery, while hryvnia devaluation enhanced competitiveness, particularly in the agricultural sector. Finally, from 2022 onward, under conditions of full-scale war, the export portfolio centered on agricultural goods, metals, and, to a lesser extent, defense products, energy resources, and processed goods, though logistical constraints and the blockade of ports posed severe challenges.

In terms of goods imports, energy resources, machinery and equipment, chemical products, and consumer goods consistently dominated. In the 1990s, Ukraine relied heavily on imported oil, gas, and coal - primarily from Russia and CIS countries - alongside machinery, transport vehicles, pharmaceuticals, and consumer goods, despite the heavy fiscal burden of securing these critical supplies. Between 2001 and 2013, the structure remained similar, though imports of modern machinery, industrial equipment, pharmaceuticals, electronics, and automobiles increased, facilitating technological modernization and meeting domestic demand. From 2014 to 2021, as russian supplies diminished, Ukraine diversified energy imports while continuing to rely on machinery for infrastructure recovery, medical products, and consumer goods; nevertheless, the hryvnia's depreciation substantially raised costs. Since 2022, wartime needs have reshaped imports toward critical fuels, military equipment, industrial machinery, and humanitarian supplies, with disrupted infrastructure and blocked seaports becoming the main obstacles.

The evolution of service exports was equally significant, transitioning from traditional sectors to high-value knowledge-based industries. In the 1990s, transport, construction, and machinery maintenance predominated, mainly for CIS partners; however, volumes contracted due to economic instability. From 2001 to 2013, service exports diversified toward IT outsourcing, software development, financial and banking operations, logistics, and engineering, driven by EU market access and the rise of Ukrainian IT companies. Between 2014 and 2021, IT and digital services - particularly programming and outsourcing - became the leading export category, compensating for losses in traditional markets, while transport, financial consulting, and education (including international student training) also expanded. During 2022-2025, IT and cybersecurity services became the dominant source of foreign currency inflows, supplemented by transport, consulting, education, and telecommunications, although the destruction of infrastructure posed major risks.

Similarly, service imports reflected changing technological and institutional needs. In the 1990s, Ukraine depended on foreign transport, consulting, financial, engineering, and technical services to stabilize production and maintain infrastructure, though high inflation and currency volatility limited volumes. From 2001 to 2013, imports shifted toward IT solutions, international logistics, financial and legal consulting, and risk

insurance, thereby enabling modernization and deeper integration into global markets. Between 2014 and 2021, imported services - particularly IT, logistics, consulting, and cloud-based technologies - were crucial for compensating production losses and restructuring enterprises. Finally, since 2022, wartime priorities have reshaped imports toward IT and cybersecurity, financial and consulting support for donor programs, logistics for disrupted trade flows, and education and healthcare services, which proved vital for sustaining both the economy and society.

Overall, Ukraine's foreign trade over 1991–2025 illustrates a dynamic interplay between continuity and transformation. While metals, agricultural goods, chemical products, and energy resources consistently defined trade in goods, and while transport, IT, financial, and consulting services dominated the services sector, their relative weight shifted in response to integration into global markets, geopolitical shocks, and war. Thus, agricultural exports and IT services emerged as the most resilient and adaptive sectors, providing essential foreign currency inflows and enabling the country to navigate profound political, economic, and security challenges.

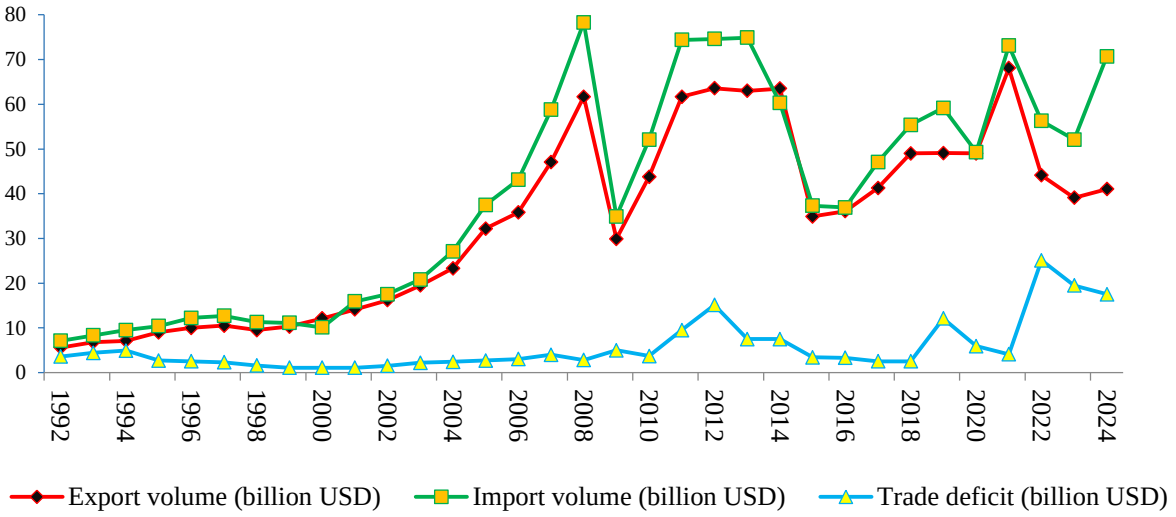

Figure 1. Dynamics of export-import volumes and trade deficit of Ukraine as of 1992-2024 period (billion USD)
Source: based on National Bank of Ukraine, 2025, State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2025, **Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, 2025.**

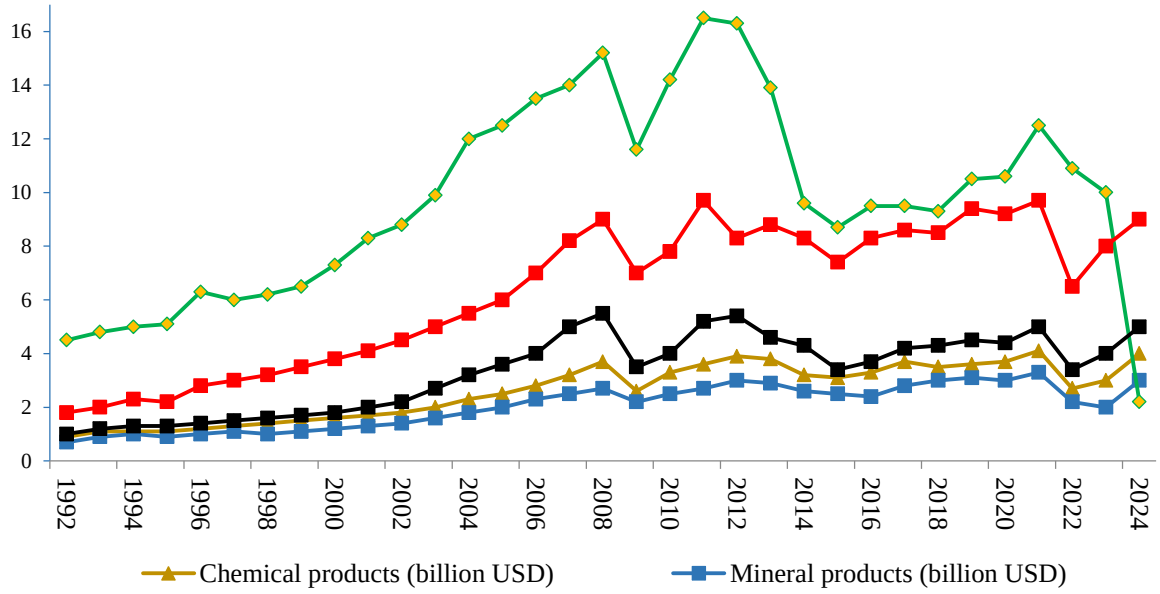

Figure 2. Dynamics of export by commodity groups as of 1992-2024 period (billion USD)
Source: based on National Bank of Ukraine, 2025, State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2025, **Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, 2025.**

Over the period 1992–2024 (Figure 1), Ukraine's foreign trade demonstrates cyclical fluctuations in exports and imports, strongly influenced by economic and military crises. Exports gradually increased from 5.6 billion USD in 1992 to 61.7 billion USD by 2008, while imports rose from 7.1 billion USD to 78.3 billion USD, with the trade deficit narrowing from 3.6 billion USD to 1.1 billion USD during the 1990s and fluctuating between 1.1–4 billion USD in the 2001–2008 period, peaking during crises. The global financial crisis of 2008–2009 caused temporary declines, and the 2014–2016 period saw exports drop to 36.1 billion USD due to the temporary occupation of Crimea and the war in Donbas, while the deficit ranged from 3.3–7.5 billion USD. By 2022–2024, exports fell to 41 billion USD and imports rose to 70.7 billion USD, resulting in a record trade deficit of 25.1 billion USD in 2022. Overall, these trends reflect Ukraine's gradual integration into global markets, its sensitivity to external shocks, the strategic importance of high-tech imports for industrial modernization, and the pronounced impact of geopolitical and economic crises on trade dynamics.

Given the sharp fluctuations in exports and imports over the past 30 years, mathematical analysis will consequently allow for the assessment of average annual trends and the dynamics of the trade deficit.

The average export for 1992–2024 is calculated as:

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum_{t=1992}^{2024} x_t}{33} \approx 39{,}1 \text{ billion USD}, (1)$$

where $\sum_{t=1992}^{2024} x_t$ - the total export volume from 1992 to 2024,

33 - number of years in the period ($2024 - 1992 + 1$).

Consequently, the result indicates that Ukraine's average annual export over this period was approximately 39.1 billion USD.

The average import for the period 1992–2024 allows for an assessment of the average annual volume of goods and services that Ukraine imported during this period:

$$\bar{M} = \frac{\sum_{t=1992}^{2024} M_t}{33} \approx 45{,}5 \text{ billion USD}, (2)$$

where $\sum_{t=1992}^{2024} M_t$ - total import volume over all years from 1992 to 2024.

Therefore, the average value of 45.5 billion USD shows that imports slightly exceeded exports, thereby generating a trade deficit.

The average trade deficit illustrates the extent to which imports exceeded exports on an annual basis:

$$\bar{D} = \frac{\sum_{t=1992}^{2024} D_t}{33} \approx 6{,}4 \text{ billion USD}, (3)$$

Hence, the value of 6.4 billion USD indicates a persistent trade deficit in Ukraine over the long term.

The correlation between exports and imports demonstrates the linear relationship between the two:

$$r_{XM} = \frac{\sum_{t=1992}^{2024}(X_t - \bar{X})\,(M_t - \bar{M})}{\sqrt{\sum_{t=1992}^{2024}(X_t - \bar{X})^2 \times \sum_{t=1992}^{2024}(M_t - \bar{M})^2}} \approx 0{,}98, (4)$$

where $X_t - \bar{X}$ and $M_t - \bar{M}$ - deviations of exports and imports from their respective means.

Accordingly, the high positive correlation indicates that imports grow alongside exports, yet they frequently exceed them, thus forming a deficit. In particular, the value $r_{XM} \approx 0.98$ signifies a very strong positive correlation: whenever exports rise, imports also increase almost proportionally.

The linear trend of the deficit, which describes its dynamics, is expressed as:

$$D_t \approx 0{,}5 \times t - 990, (5)$$

where t – year

−990 - vertical shift in the linear model, ensuring that the trend line approximately passes through the actual deficit data.

0.5 × t - annual increase in the deficit (0.5 billion USD per year).

Therefore, the trend highlights long-term deficit growth, particularly after 2014.

As can be seen from Figure 2, the dynamics of export by commodity groups exhibited different trends during 1992–2024. Metallurgical products demonstrated steady growth from 4.5 billion USD in 1992 to 15.2 billion USD in 2008; however, a decline occurred during the 2009 financial crisis to 11.6 billion USD. Subsequently, recovery was observed in 2010–2012, when exports reached 16.5 billion USD, and after 2013, they gradually fell to 2.2 billion USD in 2024 due to russian war and the loss of production capacity. Agro-industrial products increased until 2013, from 1.8 billion USD in 1992 to 8.8–9.7 billion USD, whereas fluctuations occurred thereafter - in 2022, the figure dropped to 6.5 billion USD, and by 2024, it recovered to 9 billion USD. Chemical products showed relatively stable growth from 0.9 billion USD in 1992 to 4.1 billion USD in 2021, with declines in 2022–2023 and recovery to 4 billion USD in 2024. Mineral products rose until 2008 from 0.7 to 2.7 billion USD, followed by fluctuations, and in 2024 exports recovered to 3 billion USD. Machinery and equipment increased from 1 billion USD in 1992 to 5.5 billion USD in 2008, declined during crisis years and russian war, yet recovered to 5 billion USD in 2021 and remained stable at 4–5 billion USD in 2024.

The average export for 1992–2024 showed that metallurgical products remained the key group with an average volume of 9.75 billion USD, agro-industrial products – 6.32 billion USD, chemical products – 2.62 billion USD, mineral products – 2.05 billion USD, and machinery and equipment – 3.33 billion USD. Consequently, metallurgical and chemical products remain the main export groups, agro-industrial products demonstrate steady growth, whereas russian war and economic crises significantly affected the metallurgical and chemical sectors.

Since the dynamics of export by commodity groups cover an extended period (1992–2024), it is important not only to describe changes over time but also, consequently, to summarize them in terms of averages and trends. This approach, moreover, allows for the identification of structural features and overall patterns in export development.

It should be denoted:

$Xt^{(i)}$ = export of group *i* in year *t*,

where *i = 1* – metallurgy, *i = 2* – agro-industrial products, etc.

The average export by groups over the period 1992–2024 can thus be expressed as:

$$\bar{\mathbf{X}}^{(\mathbf{i})} = \frac{\sum_{\mathbf{t=1992}}^{\mathbf{2024}} \mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{t}}^{(\mathbf{i})}}{\mathbf{33}}, (\mathbf{6})$$

Accordingly, metallurgy recorded an average export of:

$$\bar{X}^{(1)} = \frac{4{,}5 + 4{,}8 + \cdots + 2{,}2}{33} \approx 9.75 \text{ billion USD}, (7)$$

Agro-industrial products – $\bar{X}^{(2)} \approx 6{,}32$ billion USD

Chemical products – $\bar{X}^{(3)} \approx 2.62$ billion USD

Mineral products – $\bar{X}^{(4)} \approx 2.05$ billion USD

Machinery and equipment – $\bar{X}^{(5)} \approx 3.33$ billion USD

Furthermore, the total export of all groups is given by:

$$X_t^{total} = \sum_{i=1}^{5} X_t^{(i)}, (8)$$

Hence, the average total export for 1992–2024 amounts to:

$$\bar{X}^{total} = \frac{\sum_{t=1992}^{2024} X_t^{total}}{33} \approx 24.1 \text{ billion USD}, (9)$$

Trends (linear approximation)

For the description of long-term dynamics, linear models may, therefore, be applied in the form

$$X_t^i \approx a_i + t + b_i, (10)$$

where a_i – average annual growth or decline, b_i –initial level.

Thus, during the period 1992–2024, the dynamics of export by commodity groups exhibited divergent trends. Metallurgical products (i=1) demonstrated rapid growth until 2008, when exports reached 15.2 billion USD; however, subsequently, a gradual decline occurred, especially after 2013, due to russian war and the loss of production capacity. Moreover, the linear model for this group accurately reflects the overall downward trend following the peak value. Agro-industrial products (i=2) were characterized by prolonged growth during the 1990s and 2000s, reaching approximately 8–9 billion USD by 2013 from 1.8 billion USD in 1992; nevertheless, cyclical fluctuations occurred thereafter, driven by weather conditions, global raw material prices, and logistical constraints. Notably, the largest drop took place in 2022, when exports fell to 6.5 billion USD; however, by 2024, the sector recovered to 9 billion USD, indicating high adaptability and sustained demand. Chemical products (i=3) developed more evenly, increasing from 0.9 billion USD in 1992 to 4.1 billion USD in 2021, with subsequent declines in 2022–2023 due to production and supply disruptions; nevertheless, partial recovery is observed in 2024, with exports around 4 billion USD. Mineral products (i=4) experienced moderate growth until 2008, from 0.7 to 2.7 billion USD, after which fluctuations occurred without a clear trend, yet in 2024 this segment reached 3 billion USD, reflecting rising demand or reconfiguration of export chains. Machinery and equipment (i=5) rose from 1 billion USD in 1992 to 5.5 billion USD in 2008; however, subsequent crises led to declines, although gradual recovery occurred in 2021, when exports reached 5 billion USD, and by 2024 remained stable at 4–5 billion USD. Consequently, metallurgy proved to be the most cyclical and vulnerable to production losses, whereas agro-industrial products demonstrated the highest resilience and adaptability. Furthermore, chemical and mineral products contributed a stable average share, yet remained dependent on energy resources and logistics, while the machinery and equipment sector remained the least stable due to high capital intensity and reliance on investment demand.

The volumes of Ukrainian services exports and imports have been systematically analyzed, and the results indicate an overall upward trend for both indicators throughout the observed period. Nevertheless, significant fluctuations and abrupt variations have been documented. Specifically, the average volume of services exports, measured as a proportion of total exports, has been determined to be approximately 11.38 billion USD, whereas the corresponding average volume of services imports amounts to 9.92 billion USD. Moreover, the medians for the respective series are reported as 12.85 and 10.3 billion USD, with minimum values of 2.4 billion USD for both series and maximum values of 15.4 billion USD for exports and 22.8 billion USD for imports.

The standard deviation of the services export volume was calculated according to the following formula:

$$\sigma_{export} = sqrt\left(\frac{sum\left(\left(X_i - \mu_{export}\right)^2\right)}{n}\right), (11)$$

where X_i denotes the value of exports in period i, μ_export represents the mean of the export series, and n is the total number of periods considered. Similarly, the standard deviation of services import volumes was derived using the analogous expression:

$$\sigma_{import} = sqrt\left(\frac{sum\left(\left(Y_i - \mu_{import}\right)^2\right)}{n}\right), (12)$$

Consequently, local maxima for exports have been observed at 15.4, 14.8, and 14.5 billion USD, whereas local minima are recorded at 12.6, 11.6, and 8.99 billion USD. In contrast, the import series exhibits peaks at 22.8, 15.8, and 15.4 billion USD, alongside troughs at 2.4, 2.6, and 2.8 billion USD. Notably, a pronounced increase in import volumes has been documented toward the end of the period, reaching 22.8 billion USD, whereas export volumes remained comparatively stable.

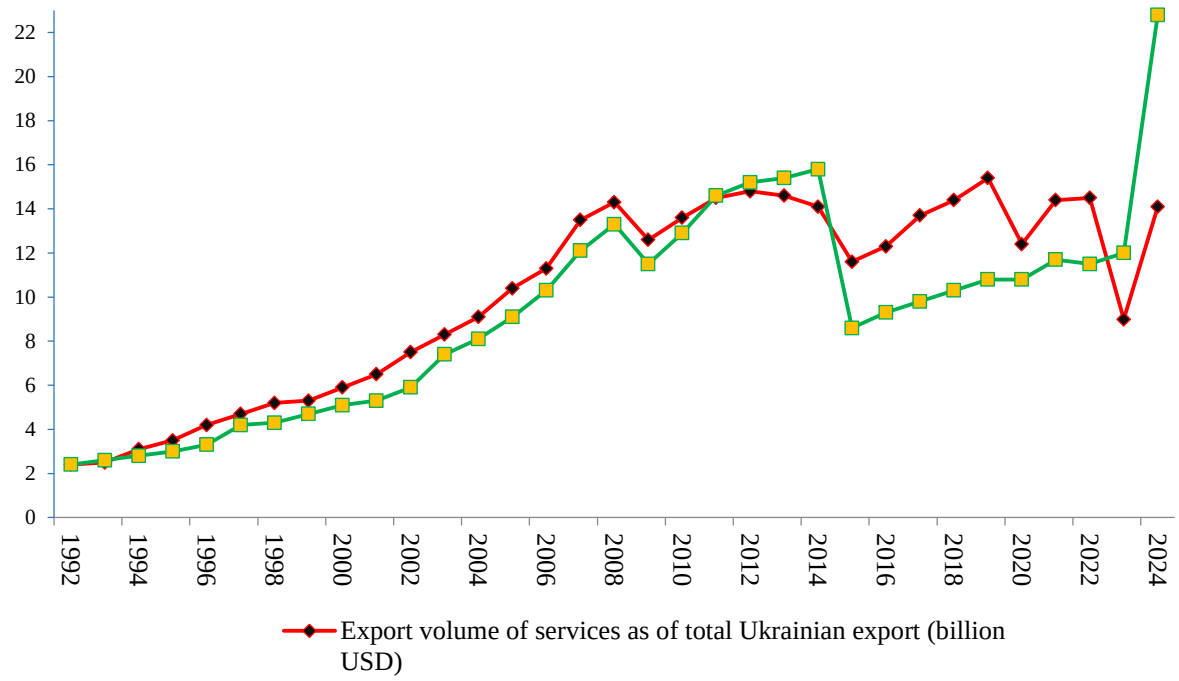

Figure 3. Dynamics of services exports and imports as of 1992-2024 period (billion USD)
Source: based on National Bank of Ukraine, 2025, State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2025, **Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, 2025.**

Growth rates between consecutive periods were computed according to the following relationship:

$$\Delta_t = \frac{Value_t - Value_{t-1}}{Value_{t-1}} * 100\%, (13)$$

where Value_t and Value_(t-1) denote the indicator values for the current and preceding periods, respectively. Accordingly, the growth rates of services exports range from moderate increases, exemplified by the change from 2.4 to 2.5 billion USD (4.17 %), to sharp declines, such as the reduction from 14.3 to 12.6 billion USD (−11.89 %), and to extreme growth at the end of the period, from 14.09 to 22.8 billion USD (61.78 %). Similarly, import growth rates fluctuate from moderate increases, for instance from 2.4 to 2.6 billion USD (8.33 %), to pronounced declines, as observed from 15.8 to 8.6 billion USD (−45.57 %), and to extreme growth from 12 to 22.8 billion USD (90 %). Therefore, it can be inferred that import volumes exhibit higher volatility and greater sensitivity to external shocks than exports.

Mean values were calculated using the standard expressions:

$$\mu_{export} = \frac{sum(X_i)}{n}, (14)$$

$$\mu_{import} = \frac{sum(Y_i)}{n}, (15)$$

where X_i and Y_i denote the export and import volumes for period i, respectively. Furthermore, the Pearson correlation coefficient between exports and imports was determined as follows:

$$r = \frac{sum\left(\left(X_i - \mu_{export}\right) * \left(Y_i - \mu_{import}\right)\right)}{sqrt\left(sum\left(\left(X_i - \mu_{export}\right)^2\right) * sum\left(\left(Y_i - \mu_{import}\right)^2\right)\right)}, (16)$$

The resulting correlation coefficient, approximately 0.85, indicates a strong positive association between the two series over the majority of the period. Nevertheless, the pronounced extremities in import volumes observed toward the end of the period reduce the degree of synchronization between exports and imports.

A detailed temporal analysis reveals that, initially, both series increased moderately: exports rose from 2.4 to 5.2 billion USD, whereas imports increased from 2.4 to 4.3 billion USD. Subsequently, during the mid-period, growth accelerated, with exports attaining 14.3 billion USD and imports 13.3 billion USD. Additionally, local declines were recorded for both series, namely 12.6 and 11.6 billion USD for exports and 11.5 and 8.6 billion USD for imports. Toward the end of the period, import volumes surged sharply to 22.8 billion USD, whereas export volumes initially declined to 8.99 billion USD but subsequently recovered to 14.09 billion USD.

Overall, the analysis indicates that Ukrainian services exports maintained a relatively stable trajectory with smooth fluctuations, whereas imports displayed more abrupt variations and greater responsiveness to external factors. Accordingly, services import volumes may serve as a critical indicator of potential systemic instability and can function as an early signal of structural shifts in Ukraine's foreign trade framework.

It is appropriate to conduct an analysis of the **correlation** between inflation and export-import activity,

since this allows for an assessment of how macroeconomic fluctuations affect both the competitiveness of goods and the stability of the foreign trade balance; moreover, such an analysis provides insights into the mechanisms through which domestic price dynamics influence international trade performance and the overall economic resilience of the country.

Fluctuations in exchange rates, inflationary trends, and economic crises can significantly affect the profitability of export operations; consequently, firms engaged in international trade must carefully monitor macroeconomic indicators. Moreover, sudden currency devaluations may erode expected revenues, while persistent inflation can increase production costs, thereby reducing competitive advantage abroad. Furthermore, economic crises in target markets can disrupt demand patterns, thus necessitating adaptive risk management strategies to safeguard export performance.

The interaction between inflation and Ukrainian export-import activity during the period 1991–2025 manifested distinctly across different stages of the country's economic development. Initially, in the immediate post-independence years of 1991–2000, Ukraine experienced hyperinflation, with the annual rate surpassing 1,000% in 1993; consequently, soaring prices substantially undermined the international competitiveness of Ukrainian goods, complicated settlements with foreign partners, and constrained the importation of essential equipment and resources. Nevertheless, export-import operations frequently served as a crucial mechanism for generating foreign currency inflows, thereby partially mitigating the adverse effects of domestic inflation. Subsequently, during the period 2001-2013, following the 1996 monetary reform and stabilization of the hryvnia, inflation declined to approximately 10-15% per annum, although it surged to 25-30% amid the 2008–2009 global financial crisis; therefore, a more stable currency enhanced predictability in export and import transactions, while rising domestic prices for energy and goods stimulated the demand for more cost-effective imported resources. Moreover, the competitiveness of Ukrainian exports increasingly became contingent upon global commodity prices, particularly for metals, grains, and other agricultural products. During 2014–2021, in the aftermath of the russian war in eastern Ukraine and the significant hryvnia devaluation of 2014–2015, annual inflation reached 40–50%; as a result, currency depreciation rendered Ukrainian exports more affordable for international buyers, thereby promoting sales of grains, metals, and chemical products. Conversely, imported goods, notably energy resources and technological equipment, experienced sharp price increases, raising production costs for domestic enterprises. Furthermore, persistent high inflation complicated the planning of long-term contracts on international markets. Finally, in 2022–2025, amid full-scale russian invasion, inflation escalated to approximately 25-30% in 2022; consequently, hryvnia devaluation enhanced the competitiveness of Ukrainian exports, particularly agricultural products, whereas rising import costs and logistical challenges due to damaged infrastructure further elevated production expenses. Importantly, foreign currency inflows from exports were indispensable for financing state operations and procuring necessary imported inputs. Thus, throughout the entire period from 1991 to 2025, inflation and export-import activity were inextricably linked: high inflation diminished domestic competitiveness and complicated imports, yet at the same time, currency depreciation could incentivize exports. Overall, Ukraine had to continuously navigate the delicate balance between sustaining export performance and controlling import-related expenditures within a context marked by both domestic and international economic volatility.

Accordingly, economic data related to export trade deficit and inflation were analysed as of 1993–2024 period using the elasticity coefficient formula had been analysed

$$\mathrm{Exy} = \left|\frac{\mathrm{dlny}}{\mathrm{dlnx}}\right| = \left|\frac{\mathrm{dy}}{\mathrm{dx}} \times \frac{\mathrm{x}}{\mathrm{y}}\right|, \quad (17)$$

where y – a change in amount of trade deficit; x – a change in inflation; Exy – elasticity of y with respect to x; lny – natural logarithm of the variable y; lnx – natural logarithm of the variable x; $\frac{\mathrm{dlny}}{\mathrm{dlnx}}$ – relative change in y in response to a relative change in x; $\frac{\mathrm{dy}}{\mathrm{dx}}$ – derivative of the function y with respect to x; $\frac{\mathrm{x}}{\mathrm{y}}$ – ratio of the level of variable x to the level of y.

The calculation of the trade deficit's elasticity with respect to inflation is essential, since it allows for the assessment of how changes in domestic price levels affect the country's foreign trade balance. Consequently, this approach provides a deeper understanding of the interdependence between internal inflationary processes and the state of international trade. The results indicate substantial fluctuations in elasticity coefficients across different years, thereby reflecting the unstable nature of the relationship between the trade deficit and inflation. In certain years, high positive elasticity was observed (for instance, 2004 – 536.8), when even minor changes in inflation were accompanied by significant variations in the deficit; conversely, in other years, the coefficient assumed negative values (e.g., 2016 – –24.26), indicating an inverse response of the indicators. Anomalously high values in 1993, 2004, and 2014 can be explained by abrupt spikes in inflation or the trade deficit, whereas during crises and wartime periods (1996–1999, 2006, 2015, 2020), elasticity was frequently negative, which suggests a reduction in the deficit amid rising inflation. On average, the elasticity coefficient amounted to approximately 5.31, thereby indicating a relatively high sensitivity of the trade deficit to inflationary changes over the long term; accordingly, even minor fluctuations in price dynamics can significantly influence the foreign trade balance. Measuring elasticity is a critical analytical tool because it allows for the evaluation of the vulnerability of external economic stability to domestic macroeconomic fluctuations. Specifically, it enables the assessment of macroeconomic stability and the forecasting of how inflationary processes may affect the trade balance.

Moreover, the calculated indicators assist the government and the National Bank in formulating balanced monetary and exchange rate policies to mitigate the negative impact of inflation on international trade. Furthermore, determining elasticity allows for risk forecasting, since during crisis periods, high or negative values signal potential threats to the economy that require timely intervention. Additionally, the analysis facilitates an evaluation of inflation's impact on the international competitiveness of Ukrainian goods and on the country's dependence on imports. Therefore, measuring the elasticity of the trade deficit with respect to inflation is crucial for identifying periods of heightened vulnerability, enabling prompt economic responses, and developing effective strategies for managing the foreign trade balance.

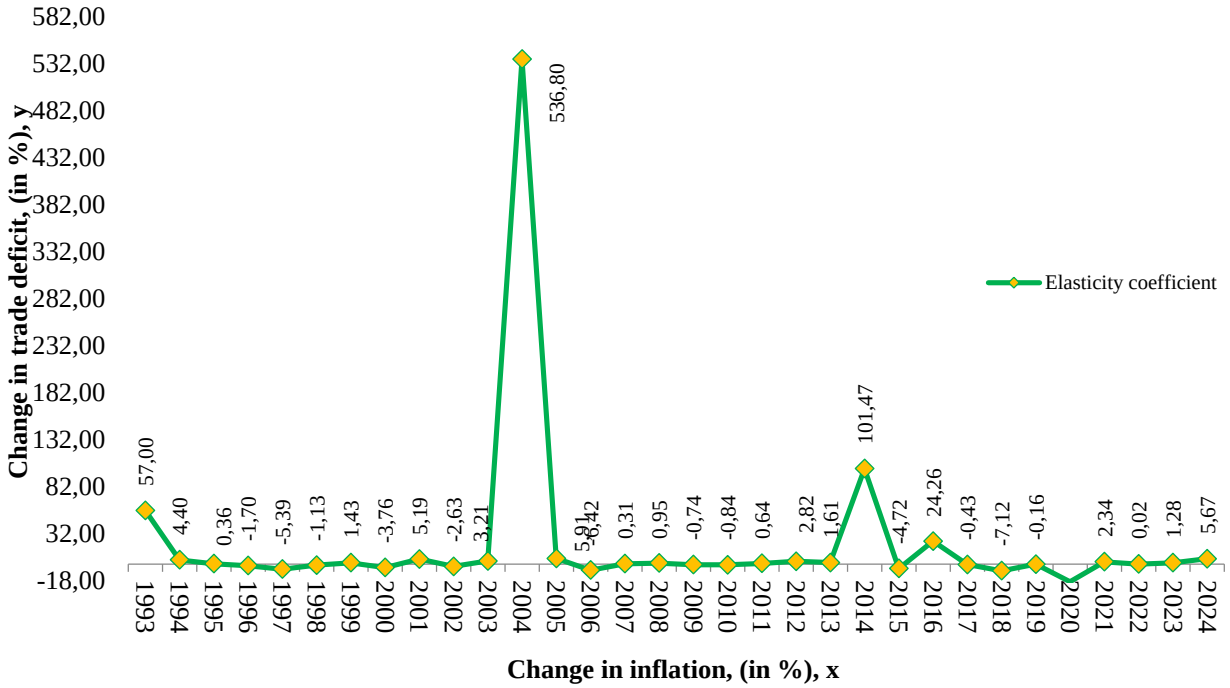

Figure 4. Elasticity coefficient of trade deficit relative to inflation trends in Ukraine from 1993 to 2024
Source: based on National Bank of Ukraine, 2025, State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2025, **Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, 2025.**

It is important to analyze the key legal and regulatory documents that establish the legal framework for the country's foreign economic activity.

Table 1

Elasticity coefficient between changes in trade deficit and inflation

Year	Change in trade deficit, (in %), y	Change in inflation, (in %), x	Elasticity coefficient
1992	3,6	0,6	
1993	4,4	8,2	57,00
1994	4,9	12,3	4,40
1995	2,7	10,3	0,36
1996	2,5	11,6	-1,70
1997	2,3	16,6	-5,39
1998	1,6	22,3	-1,13
1999	1,1	12,3	1,43
2000	1,2	8,1	-3,76
2001	1,1	4,6	5,19
2002	1,5	0,2	-2,63
2003	2,2	0,5	3,21
2004	2,4	24,9	536,80
2005	2,7	43,3	5,91
2006	3	12,4	-6,42
2007	4	13,7	0,31
2008	2,8	9,8	0,95

2009	5	4,1	-0,74
2010	3,7	5	-0,84
2011	9,5	10	0,64
2012	15,1	26,6	2,82
2013	7,5	5,1	1,61
2014	7,6	12	101,47
2015	3,4	43,3	-4,72
2016	3,3	12,4	24,26
2017	2,5	13,7	-0,43
2018	2,6	9,8	-7,12
2019	12,1	4,1	-0,16
2020	5,9	43,3	-18,66
2021	4,1	12,4	2,34
2022	25,1	13,7	0,02
2023	19,5	9,8	1,28
2024	17,5	4,1	5,67

Source: based on National Bank of Ukraine, 2025, State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2025, **Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, 2025.**

Table 2

Laws and Subordinate Regulatory Legal Acts Governing Export-Import Operations in Ukraine

Law, year of adoption	**Main statements**
Customs Code of Ukraine, Law of Ukraine No. 4495-VI of 13 March 2012	Code regulates customs control, clearance, taxation, and restrictions on the import, export, and transit of goods. It establishes declaration requirements, procedures for customs processing, and liability for violations, providing a legal framework for conducting foreign economic operations.
Tax Code of Ukraine, Law of Ukraine No. 2755-VI of 2 December 2010	Code stipulates that exports of goods are subject to VAT at a rate of 0%, while imports are subject to VAT at 20%, in addition to customs duties and excise taxes on excisable goods. Corporate profits from foreign economic activity are taxed at 18%, and payments to non-residents (dividends, royalties, services) at 15%. Certain categories of goods, including humanitarian aid and investment equipment, may be exempt from VAT and customs duties.
Law of Ukraine "**On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2025**", No. 4059-IX, adopted on 19 November 2024	Law defines the state's revenues and expenditures, including customs revenues, state fees, and taxes arising from export-import operations, which form part of the state budget.
Law of Ukraine "**On Foreign Economic Activity**", No. 1915-XII of 16 May 1991	Law establishes the procedures for the export and import of goods and services, sets principles and a licensing regime for strategic goods, requires mandatory declaration and government control, prescribes liability for violations, and ensures Ukraine's compliance with international agreements, including WTO rules.
Law of Ukraine "**On Currency and Currency Operations**", No. 2473-VIII of 21 June 2018	Law defines export and import of goods and services as currency transactions, regulates payments through authorized banks with mandatory document verification, sets deadlines for repatriation of foreign currency proceeds and for payments, provides for banking control over compliance with currency legislation, and introduces special licensing for strategic goods.
Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 203 of 27 February 2019 "On Approving the Form of the Declaration for Cross-Border Transfer of Monetary Values"	Resolution establishes the procedure for declaration of monetary valuables by individuals when crossing the customs border of Ukraine, prescribes the declaration form for sums exceeding €10,000, and clarifies the declaration procedure compared to previous resolutions.
Law of Ukraine "**On Prices and Pricing**", No. 5007-VI of 21 June 2012	Law establishes the legal principles for pricing of goods and services in Ukraine, including in export-import operations, where contract prices reflecting world market conditions and indicative prices are applied. The law classifies prices into three categories - free, state-fixed, and regulated - and provides that their formation is determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in accordance with market conditions and international standards. This approach ensures transparency, competitiveness, and stability in foreign trade pricing.
Law of Ukraine "**On State Regulation of Securities Market**", No. 448/96-VR of 30 October 1996	Law governs operations with securities, including their export to non-residents and import by residents, establishes the procedure for such operations, sets obligations for market participants, and provides oversight to ensure compliance.

Law of Ukraine "On Licensing Certain Types of Economic Activity", No. 222-VIII of 2 March 2015	Law provides for licensing of the import and export of specific categories of goods (strategic goods, weapons, valuable resources, certain agricultural products, and hazardous substances), defines the procedure for submitting applications to authorized bodies, sets conditions, deadlines, and permissible volumes, and establishes administrative or criminal liability for violations, ensuring state control over the circulation of strategically and economically important goods.
Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1481 of 24 December 2024 "On Approving Lists of Goods the Export and Import of Which Are Subject to Licensing and Quotas for 2025"	Cabinet establishes licensing and quota procedures for the export and import of controlled goods, agricultural products, and goods for the EU, sets the list of such goods, regulates the application of quotas and license validity periods, and serves as a key instrument of state regulation of foreign economic activity in Ukraine for 2025.
Law of Ukraine "**On Fisheries, Commercial Fishing, and Protection of Aquatic Biological Resources**", No. 3677-VI of 8 July 2011	Export and import of fish and aquatic biological resources are permitted only with licenses or certificates and in compliance with sanitary, veterinary, and environmental requirements; state authorities monitor circulation and impose restrictions on specific species in accordance with international agreements, while trade procedures are not regulated by law.
Law of Ukraine "**On Plant Quarantine**", No. 3348-XII of 30 June 1993	Law establishes that export, import, and re-export of quarantine materials are allowed only with a phytosanitary certificate and under control at border checkpoints. Persons handling such materials must be registered with the State Service of Ukraine on Food Safety and Consumer Protection, and shipments are inspected to prevent the spread of harmful organisms.
Law of Ukraine "**On Veterinary Medicine**", No. 1206-IX of 4 February 2021	Law regulates veterinary control during the export and import of animals, animal products, and feed, sets requirements for their safety and quality, and establishes procedures for veterinary-sanitary examination during export-import operations.
Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 857 of 21 November 2013 "On Approving the Procedure for Issuing Veterinary Documents"	Cabinet stipulates that the issuance of appropriate veterinary documents is mandatory for the export and import of animals, animal products, and other objects under veterinary control, confirming sanitary-epidemiological safety and compliance with veterinary standards prior to crossing the customs border of Ukraine.
Law of Ukraine "**On Basic Principles and Requirements for Food Safety and Quality**", No. 771/97-VR of 23 December 1997	Law establishes that imported and exported food products must comply with safety and quality standards, bear labeling containing information on composition, shelf life, manufacturer, and country of origin, and that border control is conducted through verification of documents and certificates, with the possible application of international standards, including the **Codex Alimentarius** (international food safety standards protecting consumers and facilitating trade), to simplify trade.
Law of Ukraine "**On Consumer Rights Protection**", No. 3153-IX of 10 June 2023	Law provides that imported goods and services on the domestic market must meet safety and quality standards, include complete consumer information in Ukrainian, and ensure warranty service and return of defective products. Suppliers are responsible for the compliance of goods with established norms regardless of origin, ensuring protection of consumer rights.
Order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine No. 400 of 4 May 2020 "On Approving the Regulation on State Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision"	Order establishes the procedure for state sanitary and epidemiological control during the import and export of goods, products, and materials, ensuring verification of their safety and compliance with sanitary requirements.
Law of Ukraine "**On Environmental Protection**", No. 1264-XII of 25 June 1991	Law sets out general environmental principles to be considered in all operations involving natural resources, including exports and imports.
Law of Ukraine "**On Export and Import of Weapons and Military Equipment**", No. 549-15 of 24 December 2015	Law provides that export and import of firearms, ammunition, military equipment, and associated technologies are permitted only with state-issued licenses and permits and are subject to control to prevent illegal circulation. Operations must comply with Ukraine's international obligations, and violations incur administrative or criminal liability.
Law of Ukraine "**On State Control over International Transfers of Dual-Use and Military Goods**, No. 549-IV of 20 February 2003	Law establishes that export, import, and transit of military goods and dual-use items are allowed only with state authorization, based on a license or other official document. Operations are subject to mandatory control, including verification of goods and end users. The law sets restrictions on categories of goods and countries, and violations entail administrative or criminal liability.

Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1378 of 9 December 2022 "On the List of Goods for Which the Law of Ukraine 'On State Control over International Transfers of Dual-Use and Military Goods' Does Not Apply during Martial Law in Ukraine"	Resolution provides that the import of certain goods may be exempt from state control if the Ukrainian side provides guarantees regarding their intended use, even if they contain items from the military list. It applies from the date of publication until the cessation or repeal of martial law, facilitating the import of humanitarian aid, including military and dual-use goods.
"**Authorization for Export/Import of Military or Dual-Use Goods**"	**Authorization** stipulates that for export and import of military and dual-use goods, a special permit from the authorized state body is required. The procedure includes submission of documents with product characteristics, information on the end user, and the purpose of supply. The controlling body ensures compliance with national security and international obligations, sets deadlines, volumes, and conditions, and trade without authorization is prohibited and subject to liability.
Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 398 of 1 April 2022 "On Certain Issues of Phytosanitary Measures and Procedures under Martial Law"	Resolution establishes a simplified phytosanitary control for import and export of plant products during martial law. Goods are primarily inspected visually without sampling, and documents are submitted electronically or in paper form to the territorial offices of the State Service of Ukraine on Food Safety and Consumer Protection.
Association Agreement between Ukraine, on the One Part, and the European Union, the European Atomic Energy Community, and Their Member States, on the Other Part	Association agreement facilitates the export and import of goods and services, eliminates most tariffs, and defines rules, standards, and procedures governing trade between the parties.
International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System	Law establishes a unified system for the description and coding of goods, regulating classification for all export-import operations.
Export Control Handbook of Ukraine No. 861 of 15 July 1999	Handbook contains information on normative legal acts related to state and customs control and other aspects of foreign economic activity and regulates export-import operations of controlled goods, establishing licenses, permits, and restrictions for their movement across the border.
Law of Ukraine "**On Standardization**", No. 1315-VII of 5 June 2014	Law stipulates that standards are harmonized with international requirements and are applied during export and import to ensure compliance and eliminate trade barriers.
Law of Ukraine "On State Support of Cinematography in Ukraine", No. 1977-VIII of 23 March 2017	Law defines rules for the export of Ukrainian films and import of foreign cinematographic works, promoting international exchange and the development of the national film industry.
Law of Ukraine No. 1068-XIV of 21 September 1999 "On Export, Import, and Return of Cultural Values"	Law regulates the export, import, and return of cultural property, establishes procedures for licensing and permits, mandatory declaration and examination, prohibits movement of items from the state registry or of questionable origin, and provides for control, liability, and international cooperation to protect cultural heritage and prevent illegal circulation.
Law of Ukraine "**On State Support of Agriculture of Ukraine**", No. 1877-IV of 24 June 2004	Law regulates export and import of agricultural products, establishing rules for export support, quality control, and potential restrictions to protect the domestic market.
Law of Ukraine "**On State Registration of Legal Entities, Individual Entrepreneurs, and Public Organizations**", No. 755-IV of 15 May 2003	Law governs participation of registered legal entities and individuals in export-import operations, ensuring legality and proper registration.
Law of Ukraine "**On Official Statistics**", No. 2524-IX of 17 August 2022	Law establishes rules for collecting, processing, and publishing statistical data on exports and imports, covering trade in goods and services, with exporters and importers obliged to provide this information.
Law of Ukraine "**On State Support for Investment Projects with Significant Investments in Ukraine**", No. 1116-IX of 17 December 2020	Law regulates export-import operations through support of investment projects involving production for export and import of equipment or technology (**UkraineInvest** - the state institution authorized to facilitate investment projects and provide consultation to investors).
Law of Ukraine "**On State Support of Scientific and Scientific-Technical Activities**", No. 848-VIII of 26 November 2015	Law supports export and import of scientific and technical developments, technologies, and equipment, promoting international cooperation and enhancing competitiveness.

Law of Ukraine "**On State Support of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises**", No. 4618-VI of 22 March 2012	Law supports export-import operations of small and medium-sized enterprises through financial, advisory, and organizational assistance to facilitate access to foreign markets.
Law of Ukraine "On Accounting and Financial Reporting in Ukraine", No. 996-XIV of 16 July 1999	Law defines rules for accounting and reporting of export-import operations in financial statements, ensuring transparency, accuracy, and control of foreign economic activity.
Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 7-93 "**On State Duty**" of 21 January 1993	Decree establishes procedures for collection of state duty on exported and imported goods, sets duty rates, payment procedures, and exemptions for certain categories of goods and operations.
Order of the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine No. 595 of 30 May 2012 "On the Procedure for Customs Clearance of Goods and Vehicles"	Resolution regulates customs clearance of goods and vehicles during export and import, establishes the procedure for submission of customs declarations and documents, and specifies the process of inspection by state authorities.
Order of the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine No. 651 of 30 May 2012 "On Approving the Procedure for Filling Customs Declarations on the Unified Administrative Document Form"	Order provides detailed instructions for correctly completing customs declarations in the form of a Unified Administrative Document for accurate processing of goods during export and import, specifying document requirements and obligations of participants in foreign economic activity.
Resolution of the National Bank of Ukraine No. 18 of 24 February 2022 "On the Operation of the Banking System during Martial Law"	Resolution establishes temporary rules for currency settlements in export-import operations during martial law to ensure stability of the banking system.
Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 203 of 27 February 2019 "On Approving the Form of the Declaration for Cross-Border Transfer of Monetary Values by Individuals"	Resolution regulates mandatory declaration of monetary valuables by individuals when crossing the customs border of Ukraine, setting the form and procedure for its completion.
Law of Ukraine "**On Protection of Rights to Inventions and Utility Models**", No. 3687-XII of 15 December 1993	Law provides that a patented invention or utility model may be used in production, sale, import, or export of products only with the consent of the patent holder; such operations are subject to patent law oversight and regulation.
Law of Ukraine "**On Protection of Rights to Marks for Goods and Services**", No. 3689-XII of 15 December 1993	Law regulates the use of registered trademarks in commercial activities, including import and export of goods, establishing that the use of a mark is permissible only with the rights of the owner, ensuring protection against unauthorized use.

Source: developed by the authors

All the aforementioned legislative acts constitute a coherent legal framework for regulating Ukraine's export-import activities; moreover, this framework integrates general principles, specific provisions, state support mechanisms, and instruments of control.

Discussion. A. Virkovska *et al.* (2022) outlined the ways and directions that will contribute to solving the problems of Ukraine's agricultural sector during the war and in the post-war period. Moreover, Ye. Kernychnyi (2024) focused on the development of export policy, adaptation to changes in the international trade environment, and ensuring high standards of product quality and safety. Likewise, D. V. Kulish (2023) presented a methodology that allows for the classification of enterprises in the business sector within competitive profiles in order to identify opportunities for improvement and facilitate decision-making regarding the allocation and prioritization of resources. Furthermore, the research of O. V. Prokopenko *et al.* (2022) enabled the formation of a comprehensive generalized approach to identifying types of innovative strategies and analyzing the ways of their implementation in company activities. In addition, B. Yu. Kyshakevych & B. T. Demedyuk (2024) conducted an analysis of the main tools for reducing the risks of export-import operations of SMEs in EU countries. Similarly, M. Vovk & V. Voroblevskyi (2024) identified the key measures necessary for reorienting state policy in line with the crisis conditions that emerged during the export of agricultural products. Equally important, L. B. Bushovska (2022) highlighted the conditions that determine the necessity of developing a mechanism for managing export-import operations and its role in ensuring enterprises' economic security.

In turn, I. Privarnikova (2024) attempted to provide a visual representation of export and import service models recognized by World Trade Organization under the General Agreement on Trade in Services, and developed an algorithm for export-import operations of services that takes into account key processes to facilitate international trade for Ukrainian businesses. Additionally, O. I. Hrytsai & I. V. Defir (2024) assessed the

state of Ukrainian commodity exports during the full-scale invasion in comparison with pre-war period, identifying priority countries for Ukrainian exports and analyzing the most significant export categories in a geographical breakdown. Similarly, S. Radziievska (2023) emphasized the positive trend of increasing the share of Ukraine's service exports to EU within total export of services and tendency of decreasing share of imports of services from EU within total import of services. Moreover, A. Maksymiuk & S. Mrochko (2023) analyzed Ukraine's export-import activity, which made it possible to understand the problems and prospects of restoring and stabilizing Ukraine's international economic relations under wartime conditions.

Privarnikova (2024) further developed an algorithm of actions for export-import of services with due consideration of the main operations to facilitate international trade of services for Ukrainian businesses. Likewise, A. V. Savitskyi (2024) proposed indicators that allow summarizing the results of monitoring enterprises' profitability and ensuring managerial decision-making regarding specific stimulators and leverage factors for its increase. In addition, V. I. Danylenko & T. V. Diadyk (2022) suggested the introduction of discount systems to enhance the efficiency of enterprises engaged in foreign trade. At the same time, V. M. Panasiuk *et al.* (2023) proved that export operations in globalization conditions require new approaches to logistics and digitalization of processes.

Moreover, Ye. Yu. Salii & O. O. Salii (2023) demonstrated that the formation of innovative development strategies for enterprises directly depends on the intensification of foreign economic activity. Equally, V. Khachatrian & V. Stratiichuk (2022) carried out a comparative analysis of the classification of enterprises' export potential and proposed an improved classification system. Furthermore, I. Dernova (2023) studied the dynamics of global trade in services through correlation-regression analysis and conducted a comparative assessment for the top five world service-exporting countries, outlining Ukraine's place in the global services market and identifying promising directions for trade development.

Additionally, V. Olikhovskyi (2023) identified eight stages for analyzing import activity at the country level, arguing that the development and implementation of effective methodological recommendations for import activity analysis are crucial for enhancing foreign economic management and stimulating economic growth under globalization. Similarly, T. A. Talakh & V. I. Talakh (2024) defined that the methodology for analyzing enterprises' foreign economic activity must take into account all aspects, including economic and technological factors that influence business processes.

Moreover, H. S. Hurina *et al.* (2022) proposed an approach for comprehensively assessing efficiency, balance, and ecological culture in combination with state policy in aviation enterprises; this approach helps reveal real reserves for strategy improvement and justify managerial decisions that enhance competitiveness. Similarly, A. S. Zaverbnyi *et al.* (2024) stressed that applying a functional approach when forming and using modern information systems, mechanisms, and technologies is a key condition for effective foreign economic activity. In addition, O. Khorobchuk (2024) revealed that significant financial inflows in tourism services could be achieved through foreign investment in tourism infrastructure, including the development of sports complexes and resorts.

Furthermore, R. Savluk (2024) highlighted that structural modernization of the national economy in the context of net exports requires strategic recommendations for sustainable growth and long-term stability. At the same time, O. Chornenka (2024) demonstrated that the digital economy has significantly transformed enterprises' foreign economic activity, creating new opportunities for international market entry. Likewise, N. Kinzerska (2024) proved that the development of foreign economic activity is impossible without an effective system of digital solutions, which has become an important competitive advantage. Finally, O. Zelinska & N. Halaziuk (2024) stressed that transforming foreign economic activity is a necessary condition for the survival and development of Ukrainian enterprises in modern realities, while innovative approaches, market diversification, adaptation to international standards, and partnerships will strengthen their competitiveness globally.

Z. Pichkurova (2024) showed that Ukraine has significant trade potential, the growth of which is of interest to other global market actors; therefore, it is necessary to develop approaches aimed at improving the quality of domestic products, modernizing production capacities and processes, and creating favorable conditions for national producers. Moreover, O. Makarenko & M. Kurchenko (2023) found that foreign economic activity affects Ukraine's GDP. In their study, econometric models of the impact of exports and imports on GDP were constructed, which allow forecasting GDP volumes in the coming years; the scientific novelty lies in the development of recommendations to stimulate the export potential of domestic enterprises under European integration. Similarly, K. O. Doroshkevych *et al.* (2022) emphasized that for the implementation of public-private partnership strategies in foreign economic activity, the use of tactical approaches such as suffix trees is recommended.

In addition, O. V. Banchuk-Petrosova & M. R. Kovalskyi (2022) proved that applying dynamic cash flow models to assess general and budgetary efficiency of software development projects allows forecasting financial sustainability and optimizing decision-making processes. Furthermore, A. D. Pilko *et al.* (2022) systematized and clarified the content of the concept of "regional export potential", identifying key factors and principles of its formation and suggesting indicators for practical regional-level evaluation.

Equally, Yu. S. Baliuk (2022) demonstrated that effective management of industrial enterprises' foreign economic strategies - through simultaneous application of multiple management tools and justified choice of hierarchical strategies - improves competitiveness and achievement of strategic goals in external markets. Additionally, N. V. Bezrukova & V. A. Svichkar (2024) identified the dynamics of Ukraine's foreign trade reorientation to EU markets and assessed the

impact of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area and Association Agreement on export-import structures and producers' integration opportunities. Likewise, Yu. H. Bocharova *et al.* (2024) revealed trends in Ukraine's trade with the USA during 2015-2023, including substantial growth of services trade, structural changes in exports and imports, and the dynamics of trade balance and import coverage coefficients.

Moreover, M. Boichenko *et al.* (2024) justified a comprehensive approach to ensuring the resilience of Ukraine's national economy by fostering export activity, integrating transport-logistics networks with the European system, and flexibly managing business processes to counter short-term external threats. Similarly, M. I. Chepeliuk & Ya. M. Melnyk (2024) emphasized the integration of product adaptation to European standards, marketing and distribution strategies, partnership development, and innovations as factors of successful market entry into EU. Furthermore, O. Karpenko & D. Parkhomenko (2021) identified the necessity of early implementation of management changes, product standardization, and enterprise competence-building to ensure successful entry into the EU markets even prior to the establishment of DCFTA and harmonization of legislation.

Additionally, N. M. Vdovenko *et al.* (2023) combined the gravity model and decentralization initiatives to optimize international trade flows, enhance investment attractiveness, and align production with global standards and demand. Likewise, O. Hron (2021) developed a shortened methodology for assessing enterprise export potential, focusing on five key directions with up to five indicators each, thereby ensuring a rapid and cost-effective evaluation of foreign trade strengths and weaknesses. At the same time, N. Synyura-Rostun (2022) pointed out that despite losing part of its economic potential due to the war, Ukraine progressed in implementing Association Agreement provisions, as seen in export diversification, harmonization of standards, and customs reform; however, future success depends on the synergy of domestic reforms and foreign policy.

Moreover, A. Stavytska & A. Kovalenko (2023) stressed that enhancing competitiveness of the national economy and quality of Ukrainian products will facilitate efficient realization of export potential, consolidation in traditional markets, and entry into new ones. Similarly, V. V. Bondaruk & V. I. Talakh (2024) emphasized that ensuring financial resilience and competitiveness under unstable conditions requires improved risk management strategies, flexible responses to external changes, and innovative financial monitoring. Furthermore, T. S. Yarovenko & D. V. Astashev (2024) demonstrated that the use of anti-crisis measures in selecting foreign economic strategies enables Ukrainian enterprises to reorient effectively towards EU markets, gain competitive advantages, and rationally employ strategic potential under martial law.

At the same time, N. A. Yariz & O. D. Don (2024) found that Ukraine has shown high economic flexibility and the ability to rapidly restore trade flows with EU countries, confirming its reliability as a trading partner. Additionally, N. Trushkina & T. Serbina (2022) proposed an original definition of "international logistics" as a continuous management process of logistics flows in enterprises' foreign trade, enabling cost optimization, higher service quality, and competitiveness abroad. Similarly, Yu. B. Lyzhnyk *et al.* (2024) stressed that Ukraine's trade share with the EU has steadily grown, reaching 70% of exports after the full-scale invasion, while forecasts indicate further growth, confirming the strategic importance of these relations even in global crises.

Finally, L. M. Maliarets *et al.* (2024) developed an analytical method for determining mechanisms of factors' influence on export-import potential efficiency by combining modern databases, systematic indicators, and mathematical tools (including cointegration of time series), thereby ensuring objective forecasting and well-grounded strategies for effective use of this potential. Likewise, they argued that export-import activities of state-sector entities have strategic character, differing from private-sector operations due to state support, fulfillment of socio-economic tasks, participation in international projects, and contributions to economic security, while further research should assess state programs' effectiveness and the impact of international agreements and sanctions.

T. M. Doroshenko & S. O. Shybirina (2021) argued that Ukraine's export potential within the framework of European integration is characterized by a significant share of raw material exports, which creates risks of technological dependence on developed countries. Nevertheless, the novelty of their work lies in identifying priority areas for the development of knowledge-intensive and innovative products, including information and communication technologies, creative services, aerospace industries, and mechanical engineering, which will foster export diversification and enhance Ukraine's competitiveness in the EU market. Moreover, M. I. Melnyk & N. R. Synyura-Rostu (2023) established that the formation of mechanisms for state support of export activities in Ukraine was significantly intensified during martial law, and they proposed a comprehensive approach to institutional support for exporters through expanding the functions and financial capacities of the Export Credit Agency, differentiating support according to business size, broadening export geography, and strengthening networking through international trade events and regulatory harmonization.

Furthermore, N. S. Skopenko *et al.* (2023) highlighted the dynamic reorientation of Ukraine's foreign trade towards European markets and new logistical routes, which mitigated the consequences of Black Sea port blockades. In addition, they stressed the significance of the grain corridor and the relaunch of the Export Credit Agency in maintaining export potential and financial resilience of agricultural producers. Similarly, N. Smentyna (2024) underscored the need for comprehensive consolidation of efforts by Ukrainian foreign trade actors, which enables effective use of state export support instruments and strengthens export potential in the context of post-war recovery. Likewise, I. Vlasenko & S. Sirenko (2024) emphasized the role of active

European integration in foreign trade, which allows Ukrainian goods to compete equally with EU products and expand exports despite wartime and external challenges.

Equally important, D. Mazur *et al.* (2025) proposed a systematization of enterprise export potential formation along four key dimensions - production, human resources, market, and financial - while also identifying the main stages of export activity, thus providing a comprehensive framework for preparing enterprises to enter international markets. Additionally, L. V. Vlasenko (2023) stressed the critical role of restoring occupied territories in Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions and unblocking Ukrainian ports in fully realizing the export potential of the agricultural sector and contributing to global food security.

Likewise, O. V. Denysiuk *et al.* (2023) developed methodological support for assessing industrial enterprises' export-import potential, ensuring completeness of evaluation functions through detailed stages, methods, and expected results, thus enhancing objectivity and practical value under complex economic conditions. Furthermore, V. V. Zelich & M. E. Matveiev (2023) examined the peculiarities of regulation and control of Ukraine's foreign economic activity under martial law, systematized relevant legislation, and emphasized its impact on the dynamics of export-import operations, thereby allowing a comprehensive assessment of regulatory effectiveness during crises.

At the same time, V. V. Ivaniienko & K. V. Ivaniienko (2021) proposed an integrated approach to developing industrial enterprises' export potential strategies that combines systemic, situational, and self-organization principles. They defined clear stages - from assessing production capacities and monitoring export potential development to diagnosing deviations, generating alternatives, and selecting optimal strategies - which ensure scientifically grounded management of enterprises' strategic export potential. Furthermore, Shust, O. (2024) proposed a comprehensive program for supporting Ukraine's agro-export sector, including participation in international exhibitions, brand promotion, state crediting, and insurance of risks (up to 95% of political and 90% of commercial risks), aimed at enhancing product competitiveness, expanding sales markets, and fostering rural development.

The reviewed body of scholarship comprehensively examines Ukraine's export-import activity in the context of European integration, global trade dynamics, and wartime challenges. Researchers emphasize the diversification of export potential, the adaptation of enterprises to international standards, and the importance of state support mechanisms such as the Export Credit Agency, regulatory harmonization, and participation in global trade events. Moreover, a strong focus is placed on methodological advancements, including models for assessing enterprise competitiveness, classification of export-import strategies, and econometric tools for forecasting GDP and trade flows.

Equally, scholars highlight the transformative role of digitalization, innovative approaches, and logistical restructuring in ensuring resilience under conditions of crisis. The agricultural sector, with its global food security implications, alongside knowledge-intensive and service industries, is considered central to Ukraine's future trade development. Overall, the findings converge on the need for systemic policy support, innovative enterprise strategies, and international cooperation to strengthen Ukraine's competitiveness and secure its position in global and European markets.

Conclusions and prospects for further research in this area. To ensure sustainable foreign trade development in the long run, it was essential o implement comprehensive economic policies aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of Ukrainian exports and reducing dependence on imports. The issue of trade balance remained a strategic priority of the state economic policy. Accordingly, the main principles of restoring stability in foreign trade were: diversification of export markets, reorientation toward EU partners, and support for sectors with the highest resilience. The study determined that to reduce the chronic trade deficit, it was necessary to ensure: macroeconomic stability, inflation control, investment in infrastructure, the development of logistics corridors, stimulation of innovation and technological upgrading, as well as state support for agro-industrial and IT sectors. Thus, over the period 1992–2024, Ukraine's exports averaged around 39.1 billion USD annually, while imports reached 45.5 billion USD, creating an average trade deficit of 6.4 billion USD. The dynamics were marked by periods of both growth and decline. Peaks occurred in 2008, 2012, and 2021; sharp declines were recorded in 2009, 2014–2015, and especially in 2022 due to the full-scale war. Moderate recovery began in 2017, continued until 2019, and partially resumed in 2023–2024 thanks to EU integration and the development of agricultural and digital exports. Meanwhile, Ukraine's trade structure was dominated by metallurgy (average 9.75 billion USD), agro-industrial products (6.32), chemicals (2.62), minerals (2.05), and machinery and equipment (3.33). The most resilient sectors included agriculture and IT services, whereas metallurgy and chemicals proved highly vulnerable to crises and warfare. Therefore, strengthening foreign trade requires measures to modernise production, increase export diversification, and ensure effective risk management in crisis conditions, which will contribute to improving the country's competitiveness and balancing external economic relations. Comparatively, policy decisions in these areas played a crucial role in shaping Ukraine's trade policy. A special role in these measures belongs to the state, which must create favourable conditions for exporters and ensure effective regulatory frameworks. Research is advisable to conduct further in order to identify mechanisms that would enhance the resilience of Ukraine's foreign trade and improve its contribution to sustainable economic growth.

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