

Conclusion. After analyzing the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement, it should be noted that the benefits from duty-free access for Canadian agricultural producers will be received. Manufacturers of chemical and light industry, mechanical engineering, aerospace industry can immediately benefit from duty-free access to markets in Canada, namely in the ferrous metal products, hand tools, vehicles and so on.

Through the Agreement, Ukrainian producers have access to the Canadian market on preferential terms, and thus gain a competitive advantage over suppliers from those countries that have free trade agreements with Canada. It will compete on equal terms with those suppliers who are already present in the Canadian market.

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THE STATE AND CHALLENGES OF COAL INDUSTRY IN UKRAINE

Introduction. The coal industry plays a significant role in the energy balance of Ukraine. In its structure, coal accounts for about a third of the total primary energy revenues, ranked second only to the imported natural gas, and represents half of the total volume of primary energy resources of its own production. Despite the government's anti-crisis measures and a significant support, the key indicators of the state sector of the coal industry show that the crisis in this field has deepened.

Review of recent publications. Both in time of peace and under military operations, the issues of the state, development and challenges of the Ukraine's coal industry have been of great interest to such leading domestic economists as O. Amosha, V. Melnyk, F. Poklonskyi, A. Chuhaev, V. Besedin, V. Yermolenko, A. Kabanov, L. Starichenko and others. Nevertheless, taking into consideration the current economic situation in Ukraine, its market relations with other states and the events taking place on its territory nowadays, there is a pressing need for a

comprehensive analysis of the chosen development vector for Ukraine's coal industry.

Objectives of the paper. The paper aims at analysing the current economic status of Ukraine's coal industry to identify its perspectives as well as the main impediments to its development.

Results of research. At the current stage of development of the Ukraine's economy and during the events taking place in the eastern territories of the country, one of the paramount tasks set by the government is to stabilize the coal industry, which is a strategic sector for the national economy. In the years 2001-2013, approximately 80 million tons of unprocessed (ordinary) coal was extracted in Ukraine annually, the main part of which (about two thirds) was used in electric and thermal power engineering. Over the past 3 years, due to a military conflict with the self-proclaimed independent "DPR" and "LPR", coal production has more than halved from 83.7 million tons in 2013 to 40.9 million tons in 2016, which is the largest decline since the Second World War (fig. 1) [1].

Due to the pro-Russian separatist movement on the occupied territory of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and the Ukrainian-Russian military operations, in 2014 Ukraine's coal production declined by 60%. In October, 2014 it amounted to 1,140 mln tons and made only 35.1% of the results of October, 2013 (2,108 mln tons) [2].

The main political factor behind the annual drop in coal production is the loss of a large number of mines and labor force as a result of the conflict in Donbas. As of the 1 August, 2015 coal in Ukraine was mined at 150 pits, 69 of which has discontinued because of hostilities.

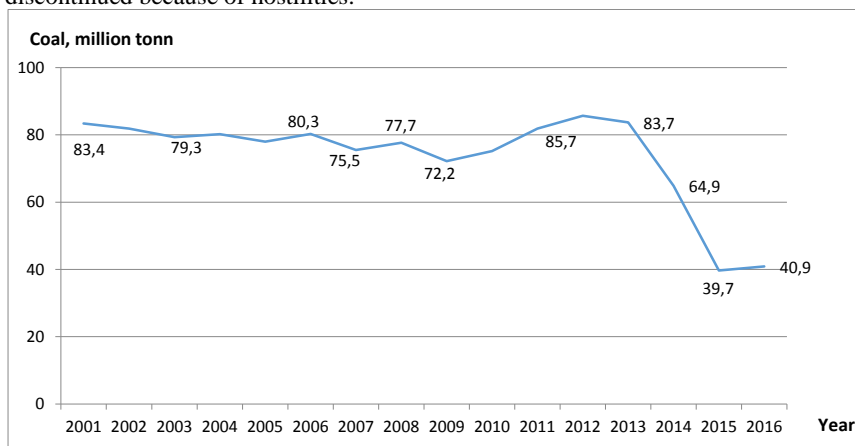


Fig. 1 Coal production on the territory of Ukraine (2001-2016)
Source: created by the author based on [1]

In general, according to the Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry, there are a total of 85 mines of various forms of ownership on the uncontrolled territory of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which makes 57% of their total number in Ukraine (fig. 2) [3]. The logistical problems concerning import and export along with a substantial damage done to the infrastructure, namely the destruction of mines and railroads, has led to the point when the United Energy System (UES) of Ukraine is unable to ensure unceasing passage of maximum loads of electricity without purchasing coal from temporarily occupied areas of Donbas or without importing coal from South Africa and Russian Federation.

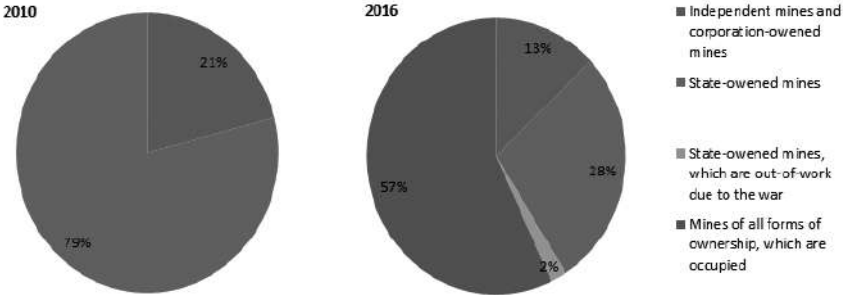


Fig. 2 Forms of ownership of coal mines located on the territory of Ukraine (including Donbass) in 2010 and 2016
Source: created by the author based on [3]

In addition to the political factors that strongly influenced the position and prospects of the coal industry in the country, waste heaps and illegal pits (kopankas) appeared to be a serious challenge. Only on the territory of Donetsk and Luhansk regions controlled by Ukraine, about 450 waste heaps are not utilized in any way [4]. On the national scale, the number of waste heaps triples. Moreover, because of possible spontaneous combustion of organic substances, the waste heaps pose a big threat to the environment of the eastern regions of Ukraine. Due to the lack of appropriate environmental measures, such as extracting coal vestiges from the waste heaps in the mines, or remediation of land, landscaping and afforestation, Ukraine is now facing a number of grave problems in the agricultural, environmental and even political spheres.

Conclusion. Overall, the study evidences that the current situation calls for practical steps and measures to be taken in order to return the coal production to the pre-war level. The burning need for the unceasing passage of electricity in winter as well as for the stability of the UES of Ukraine makes it necessary to ensure the coal, especially anthracite, supply to thermal power plants in every possible way. Despite all the obstacles and challenges, the coal industry continues to be the leading sector of economy in Ukraine. Coal mines should be nationalized, reconstructed and mining

equipment for elimination of waste heaps urgently needs to be modernized; illegal pits (kopankas) should be banned because of the threat to the environment and human's life. The government should liberalize the coal market and foster the gradual, but steady decommissioning of loss-making mines on the competitive basis.

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ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT STATE OF THE US ECONOMY

Introduction. The domestic market capacity of the USA predetermines their leading position in the global economy. The state of affairs in the USA serves as a kind of "barometer" for the economies of the rest of the world, and has a direct influence on the cycles and economic situation in other countries, affects the state of international economic exchange.

Objectives of the paper. The objective of the paper is to analyse the current changes in the US economy.

A significant contribution to the study of the US economy has been made by such scientists as Richard Thaler, Ben Bernanke, Alan Greenspan, Ben Stein.