Ukraine | Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)

MARKET OVERVIEW

10 - 20 January 2024

INTRODUCTION

Since 24 February 2022, the full-scale war across Ukraine has prompted mass displacement and humanitarian crisis. Given the prominence of multi-purpose cash as a modality for assistance, market monitoring is a key initiative to ensure humanitarian intervention is effective, sustainable and does not harm local markets.

Due to the ongoing full-scale war in Ukraine, humanitarian market data is limited and incomplete, especially from conflict-affected areas. The Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) seeks to fill this information gap by providing useful and timely data on price trends and market functionality indicators.

Marketplaces across Ukraine are assessed on a monthly basis. In each location, field teams record prices and other market indicators through retailer and customer key informants (KIs) interviews that characterize monthly changes in the local markets.

The goal of the JMMI is to: track prices and availability of basic commodities in Ukraine markets on a monthly basis; assess the impact of the current humanitarian crisis on market systems in Ukraine; contribute to a broader understanding of the market environment in Ukraine for the benefit of humanitarian actors across all sectors.

ASSESSMENT COVERAGE

KEY FINDINGS

- **At the start of the year, there was a rise in the proportion of customer KIs reporting difficulties in accessing shops, primarily attributed to security-related issues. Furthermore, there was an increase in the proportion of retailer KIs facing challenges in keeping their shops operational,** primarily due to increased prices from suppliers and staffing issues. The difficulties predominantly impacted both customer and retailer KIs in the areas closer to the frontline.
- **The issue of affordability remained crucial nationwide, with 59% of customer KIs reporting increased prices as their primary barrier to accessing goods in markets. The inability to afford items available in the stores was most frequently reported in the North (31%).** Simultaneously, the North recorded the highest cost for the JMMI basket, reaching 1213 UAH (10% higher than the JMMI basket calculated nationally).
- Access to essential items such as food and hygiene items posed no significant issues, as nearly all customer KIs reported their full availability. However, **medications and warm clothes were less accessible, with the most notable availability challenges observed closer to the frontline, particularly in Zaporizka oblast, where 45% of customer KIs reported their unavailability.**
- **Customers in the South, particularly from Khersonska and Zaporizka oblasts, reported challenges in accessing financial services, primarily attributed to the inaccessibility of functioning bank branches, a scarcity of ATMs, or long-term interruptions in service provision.**

KEY INDICATORS

Key Monthly Changes In JMMI Basket

Median cost of overall JMMI basket

1098 UAH	▲ +2.7%
28.50 USD	▼ -0.2%
25.93 EUR	▼ -1.3%

Food items	**Hygiene items**
▲ +3.9%	▲ +1.5%

Median Cost Of JMMI Basket By Region

West	1057 UAH	+0.2% ▲
East[1]	1040 UAH	–4.5% ▼
North	1213 UAH	+2.0% ▲
Kyiv	1139 UAH	+8.1% ▲
Centre	1092 UAH	+8.1% ▲
South	1076 UAH	–0.1% ▼

[1] East includes Kharkivska, Luhanska, and Donetska oblasts.

Exchange Rates**

37.84 **USD/UAH** *official* ▲ +2.3%	38.53 **USD/UAH** *parallel market* ▲ +2.9%	42.35 **EUR/UAH** *parallel market* ▲ +4.1%

** Median exchange rate on November 15, 2023. Data available at http://minfin.com.ua.

12	Participating partners
24	Assessed *oblasts*
122	Assessed *hromadas*
1199	Key informant interviews (KIIs)
472	Retailers surveyed
727	Customers surveyed
20	Commodities assessed

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JMMI BASKET

The JMMI basket is a subset of the 335-item set of consumer goods (and services) maintained by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU), focusing on core food and hygiene items that an average household must purchase regularly. The JMMI basket was defined in consultation with the Ukraine Cash Working Group (CWG).

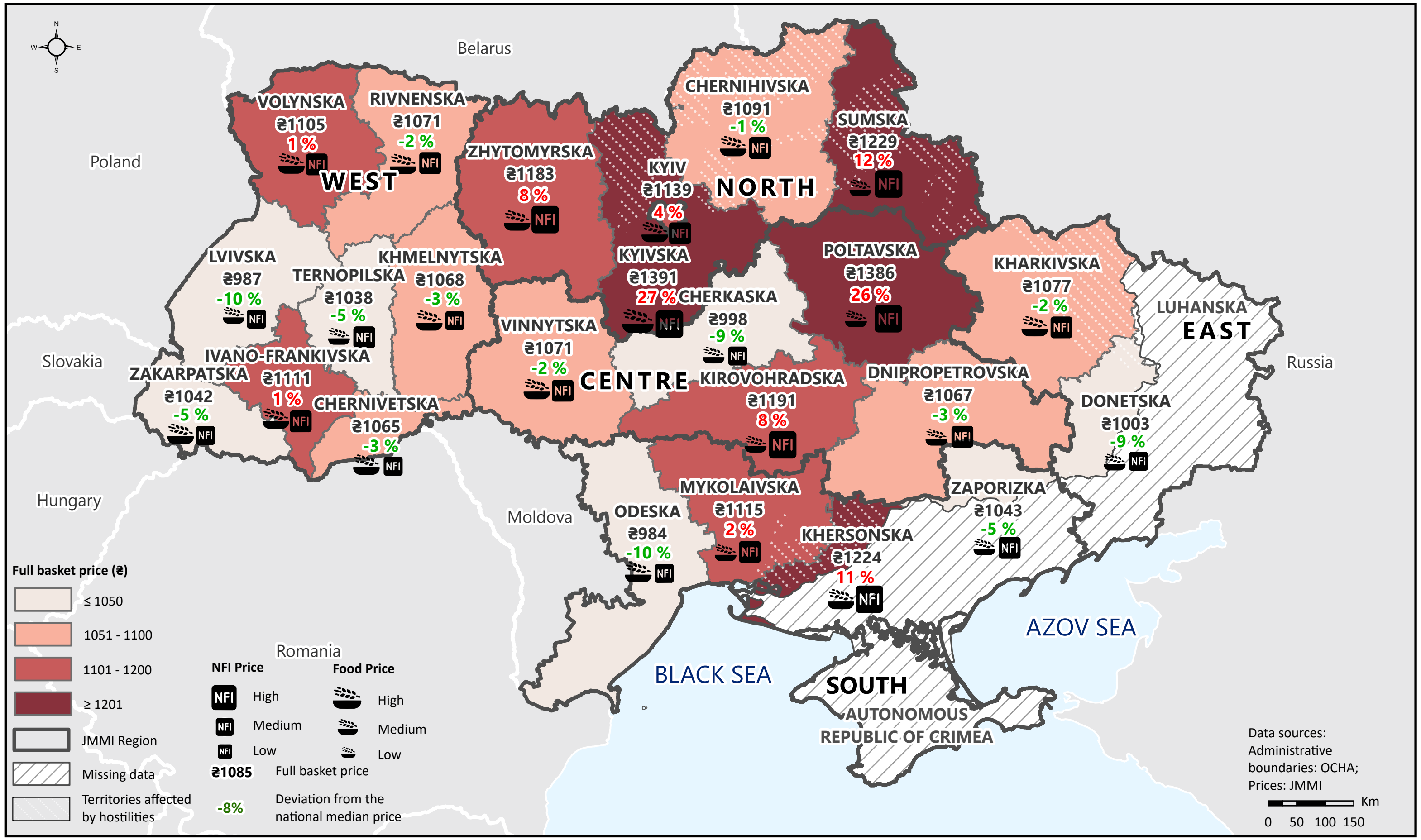
Food Items

Bread	500 g
Buckwheat	1 kg
Cabbage	1 kg
Carrots	1 kg
Chicken (legs)	1 kg
Complementary cereal for babies	200 g
Drinking water	1 bottle (1.5 L)
Eggs (chicken)	10 pcs
Milk (2.5%)	900 mL
Oil (sunflower)	900 mL
Onion	1 kg
Potato	1 kg
Rice (round)	1 kg
Wheat flour (white)	1 kg

Non-Food Items

Body soap	1 bar (75 g)
Diapers (infant, size 3)	1 pack (40-60 pcs)
Hygiene/sanitary pads	1 pack (10 pcs)
Laundry soap	1 bar (200 g)
Toothpaste	1 tube (75 ml)
Washing powder (machine)	1 box (500 g)

Map 2: Median prices (UAH) of food and non-food baskets in January 2024, by oblast



JMMI basket primary trends

- The national-level calculation of the full JMMI basket in January 2024 revealed a 3% increase compared to December 2023, remaining 1% higher than the prices in January 2023, and totaling 1098 UAH.
- The most expensive JMMI basket was calculated based on prices reported in the North (1213 UAH), followed by Kyiv (1139 UAH), whereas JMMI basket prices were reported to be the lowest in the East (1040 UAH).
- At the oblast level, the highest costs of the JMMI basket were reported in Kyivska (1391 UAH), Poltavska (1386 UAH), Sumska (1229 UAH), and Khersonska (1224 UAH) oblasts.
- A reported increase in prices compared to the previous month for all items within the JMMI basket was reported by 50% of retailer KIs in Ternopilska, 33% in Ivano-Frankivska, 29% in Sumska, 18% in Kharkivska and Poltavska oblasts.

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Table 1: Median prices (UAH) of food basket in January 2024, by region

		West		Centre		South		North		Kyiv		East		National	
Item	**Unit**	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Dec 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Dec 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Dec 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Dec 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Dec 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Dec 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Dec 2023
Bread	500 g	20	▼8%	18	▲3%	17	0%	23	▲16%	24	▲20%	20	▼1%	20	▼1%
Buckwheat	1 kg	29	0%	29	▲2%	31	▼14%	34	▼1%	30	▲1%	31	▲8%	30	▲3%
Cabbage	1 kg	15	▲23%	14	▲33%	15	▲12%	16	▲58%	15	▲29%	15	▲26%	15	▲25%
Carrots	1 kg	16	▲18%	16	▲29%	19	▲10%	17	▲57%	17	▲42%	15	▲30%	16	▲35%
Chicken (legs, fresh)	1 kg	105	▼4%	113	▲4%	107	▼1%	110	▼6%	127	0%	107	▲14%	109	▼1%
Complementary cereal	200 g	101	▲6%	71	▲22%	78	▲28%	100	▼2%	99	▲6%	84	▲25%	91	▲14%
Eggs (chicken)	10 pcs	52	▼11%	53	▼5%	52	▼7%	54	▼6%	56	0%	49	▼11%	53	▼7%
Milk (2.5%, fresh)	900 ml	34	▲3%	35	▲10%	37	▲10%	35	▲1%	35	▲3%	35	▼5%	35	▲4%
Oil (sunflower, refined)	900 ml	44	▼8%	48	▲3%	49	▼9%	50	▼5%	51	▲5%	47	▼12%	48	▼5%
Onions	1 kg	17	▲8%	16	▲8%	17	▲2%	17	▲18%	18	▲10%	18	▲10%	17	▲10%
Potatoes	1 kg	22	▲42%	21	▲42%	23	▲25%	20	▲49%	23	▲36%	21	▲35%	22	▲38%
Rice (round)	1 kg	53	▲2%	57	▲11%	54	▲2%	52	▼5%	60	▲14%	49	▲1%	53	▲2%
Water	1.5 L	16	▼5%	15	▲1%	14	▼14%	15	▼10%	15	▲4%	14	▼7%	15	▼5%
Wheat flour (white)	1 kg	19	0%	18	▲12%	18	▼11%	20	▲7%	19	▲4%	18	▼8%	18	▼3%
Total		**544**	**▲1%**	**525**	**▲9%**	**530**	**▲2%**	**565**	**▲1%**	**590**	**▲7%**	**522**	**▲6%**	**543**	**▲4%**

Table 2: Median prices (UAH) of non-food (hygiene) basket in January 2024, by region

		West		Centre		South		North		Kyiv		East		National	
Item	**Unit**	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Dec 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Dec 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Dec 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Dec 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Dec 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Dec 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Dec 2023
Body soap	1 bar (75 g)	14	▲2%	12	0%	16	▲1%	12	▲2%	13	▲4%	13	▲7%	13	▲6%
Diapers (infant, 5-9 kg)	1 pack (40-60 pcs)	339	▼2%	400	▲7%	386	▼4%	481	▲4%	399	▲12%	348	▼16%	393	▲1%
Hygiene/sanitary pads	1 pack (10 pcs)	45	▲7%	45	▲2%	43	▲13%	39	0%	39	▲9%	40	▼3%	42	▲3%
Laundry soap	1 bar (200 g)	18	▼4%	20	0%	22	▲4%	23	▲15%	24	▲2%	21	▲8%	21	▲5%
Toothpaste	1 tube (75 ml)	44	▲6%	36	▲12%	32	▼6%	47	▲5%	29	▼13%	52	▼13%	40	▲7%
Washing powder	1 box (500 g)	53	▲4%	54	▲19%	48	▲7%	46	▼13%	45	▲12%	44	▼13%	47	▼2%
Total		**513**	0%	**567**	▲8%	**547**	▼2%	**648**	▲3%	**549**	▲9%	**519**	▼13%	**555**	▲2%

Table 3: The median value (UAH) of the full JMMI basket in January 2024, by oblast

Location	JMMI Basket in UAH	Change since Dec 2023
Central		
Vinnytska	1071	▼1%
Dnipropetrovska	1067	▲9%
Kirovohradska	1191	▲3%
Poltavska	1386	▲19%
Cherkaska	998	▼3%
East		
Kharkivska	1077	▼2%
Donetska	1003	▼7%
Luhanska	na	na
Kyiv		
Kyiv city	1139	▲8%
North		
Zhytomyrska	1183	▲1%
Kyivska	1391	▼5%
Sumska	1229	▲12%
Chernihivska	1091	▼2%
South		
Zaporizka	1043	▲11%
Mykolaivska	1115	▼1%
Odeska	984	▼6%
Khersonska	1224	▲2%
Autonomous Republic of Crimea	na	na
West		
Volynska	1105	▼5%
Zakarpatska	1042	0%
Ivano-Frankivska	1111	▼16%
Lvivska	987	▼5%
Rivnenska	1071	▲7%
Ternopilska	1038	▲2%
Khmelnytska	1068	▼6%
Chernivetska	1065	▼2%
Overall	**1098**	▲3%

PRICES

The cost of the food basket increased in all regions. Nationally, it amounted to 543 UAH, representing a 4% increase compared to December.

The increase in food prices was primarily driven by the rise in the prices for all vegetables within the food basket, including potatoes (by 38%), carrots (by 35%), cabbage (by 25%), and onions (by 10%). This rise can be attributed to a decrease in the supply of high-quality vegetable products[1]. Additionally, complementary cereal for babies was available at a price 14% higher than in the previous month.

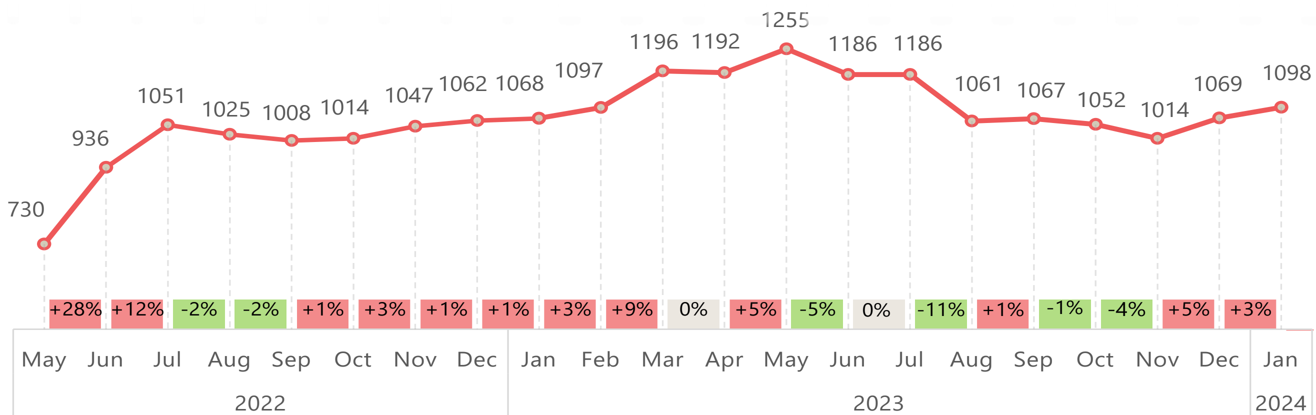
On the other hand, egg prices experienced a 7% decline, attributed to increased production and manufacturers shifting focus to the domestic market[2].

Consistent with the previous month, the most expensive food basket was calculated based on prices reported by retailers in Kyiv (590 UAH) and the North (565 UAH), while the cheapest was in the East (522 UAH).

The cost of the non-food (hygiene) item (NFI) basket amounted to 555 UAH nationwide in January, reflecting a 2% increase compared to December. The most expensive NFI basket was recorded in the North, totaling 648 UAH, while the least expensive, amounting to 513 UAH, was found in the Centre.

Map 3: Median prices (UAH) of food baskets in January 2024, by oblast

Figure 1: Monthly evolution of the JMMI basket price (in UAH)



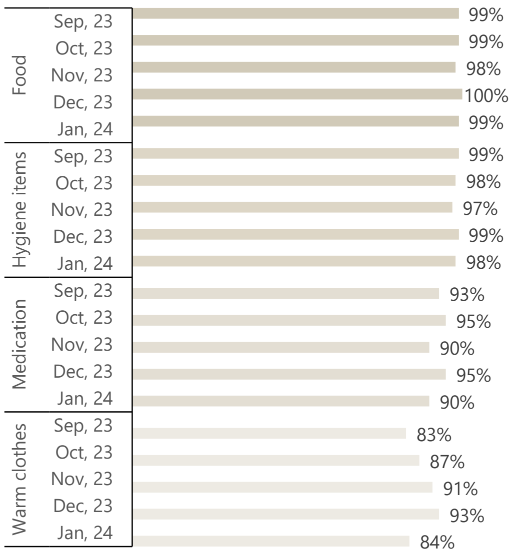
AVAILABILITY OF GOODS

Food and hygiene items

In January, food and hygiene items were widely available nationally, with 99% and 98% of surveyed customers across the country reporting their full availability, respectively.

Some availability issues were noted by a minority of customer KIs predominantly in the East and South, particularly in areas close to the frontline. Specifically, for food items, shortages were reported by a small number of respondents in Zaporizka, Khersonska, Kharkivska, and Dnipropetrovska oblasts. Regarding hygiene items, incomplete availability was noted in Zaporizka, Mykolaivska, Khersonska, and Kharkivska oblasts.

Figure 2: % of customer KIs reporting full availability of goods, nationally



Medications

In terms of over-the-counter medication, the situation has slightly deteriorated compared to the previous month. In December, 95% of customer KIs reported full availability of medication, but in January, this percentage decreased to 90%.

Although some availability issues were reported in all regions except Kyiv and the North, **the most concerning situation was found in the South, where 23% of surveyed customers reported that medications were not fully available* to them.**

Particularly alarming was the situation in Zaporizka oblast, with 45% of customer KIs reporting the complete unavailability of medications. Additionally, Mykolaivska and Khersonska oblasts displayed the highest percentages of customers reporting only being able to buy medication via ordering, with 16% and 12% of customer KIs, respectively. Moreover, 7% of customer KIs in each of these two oblasts reported limited availability of medication.

Warm clothes

The findings of the JMMI customer KIs survey highlighted that the most significant availability issues for warm clothes during the peak of the cold season were closer to the frontline.

Specifically, 22% of customer KIs in the South and 17% in the East reported that warm clothes were not fully available* to them. The situation in Zaporizka oblast was particularly concerning, with 45% of customer KIs reporting the unavailability of warm clothes.

* This option includes the responses "not available", "limited availability", and "available on order".

Figure 3: % of customer KIs reporting availability of medication, by region

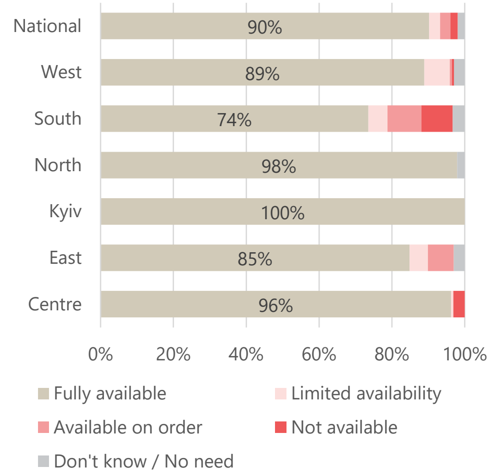
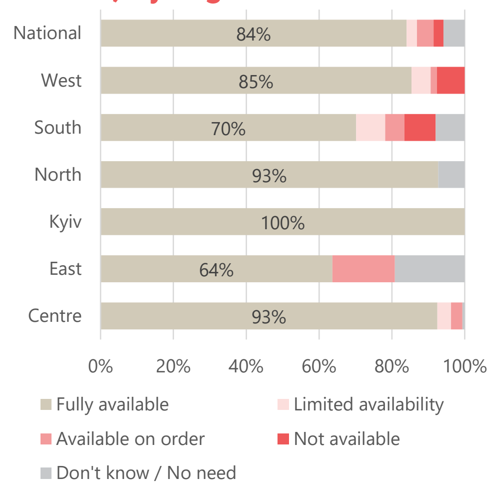


Figure 4: % of customer KIs reporting availability of warm clothes, by region

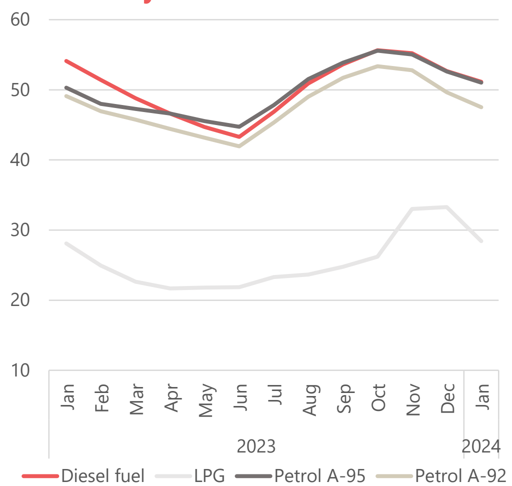


AVAILABILITY OF ENERGY RESOURCES AND MARKET PRICES

The percentage of customer KIs reporting full availability of energy resources decreased slightly: from 78% in December to 70% in January for vehicle fuel and from 90% to 87% for heating fuel. However, this change was primarily due to an increase in the percentage of "don't know/no need" responses.

According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU), fuel prices in the consumer market continued to gradually decrease in January, with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) experiencing the most significant decline at 15%[3]. Notably, **average consumer prices for vehicle fuel were nearly at the level of January of the previous year. This trend was primarily attributed to lower global crude oil prices and the diversification of fuel supply routes[4].**

Figure 5: Average consumer price for vehicle fuel (UAH per liter), nationally



Source: SSSU

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ACCESS TO STORES

Physical access to stores

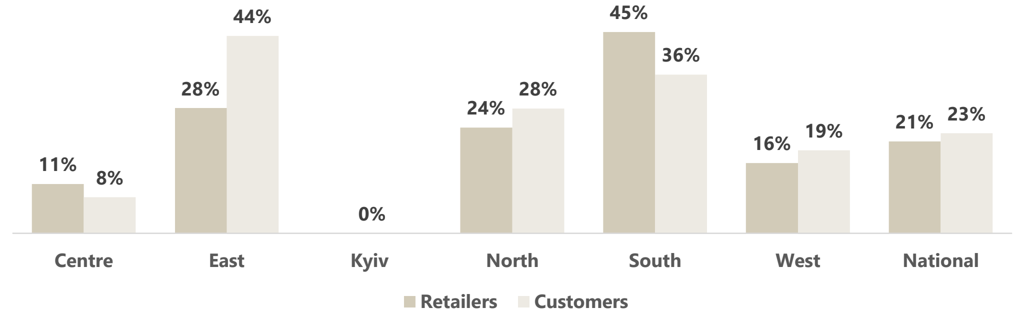
In January at the national level, 23% of customer KIs indicated that the full-scale war was affecting their ability to physically access stores or marketplaces. Among retailer KIs, the figure was slightly lower, at 21%. Nevertheless, both figures were slightly higher than those obtained in December, which were 17% for both customer and retailer KIs. **Difficulties in accessing stores were most frequently reported in eastern and southern areas closer to the frontline, where customers faced a variety of security-related factors.**

Specifically, in these regions, customer KIs reported active fighting or shelling (10% in the East), restrictions on movement related to martial law (15% in the East and 11% in the South), as well as limited access to local shops and markets due to feeling unsafe while in or approaching shops driven by fears of being targeted (22% in the East and 9% in the South). These were mostly residents of Donetska, Kharkivska, Khersonska, and Mykolaivska oblasts.

Additionally, customer KIs in Khersonska oblast reported **damage to buildings or infrastructure in stores or marketplaces (26%), as well as damage or blockages on roads leading to these locations**.

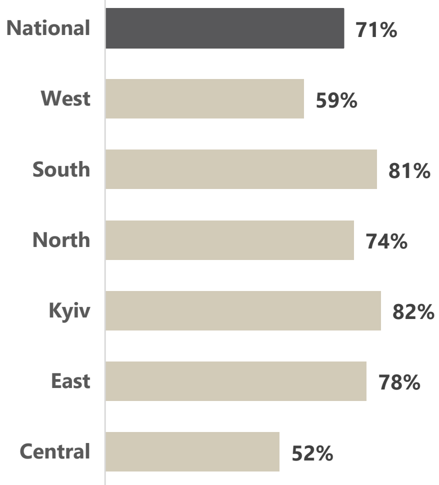
Moreover, 11% of retailer KIs in the South and 10% in the East indicated **a temporary interruption in shop operations due to power outages.** These were mostly retailers located in Kharkivska, Khersonska, Mykolaivska, and Zaporizka oblasts.

Figure 7: % of customer and retailer KIs reporting that the full-scale war has affected the ability to access stores, by region



It should be noted that air alerts also temporarily restricted customers' access to shops. This was most frequently reported in the North (22%), with the highest percentage of such respondents in Chernihivska oblast (73%).

Figure 6: % of customer KIs reporting that financial factors have affected their access to stores or marketplaces, by region



Financial factors

JMMI findings continue to highlight financial-related challenges that persistently impact customer KIs' access to goods in stores and marketplaces across Ukraine, with 71% of respondents reporting this in January (Figure 6).

Rising prices were cited as the primary reason for financial challenges, mentioned by 59% of customer KIs (see Figure 8), with the highest percentages in Kyiv (82%) and the North (60%).

Furthermore, 31% of customer KIs in the North and 25% in the South indicated they could not afford goods available in stores.

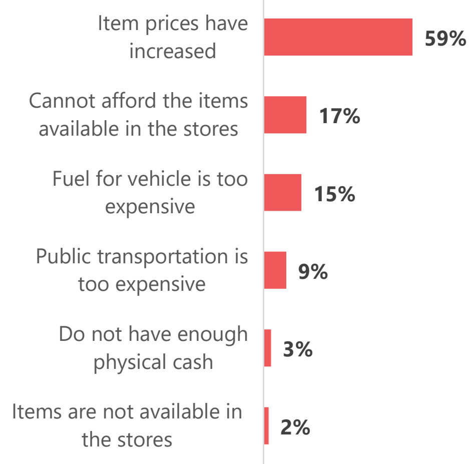
The high cost of vehicle fuel was another reported financial barrier affecting customers' access to shops nationwide, with responses reported ranging from 11% in the South to 20% in the Centre.

Expensive public transport was also a constraint, notably in the North (reported by 17% of customer KIs) and West (16%). According to the SSSU, the highest average ticket prices for public transport were in Lvivska (15.74 UAH), Chernihivska (12 UAH), and Chernivetska (11.83 UAH) oblasts[5].

It is worth noting that **customer KIs in the South faced payment issues, as 9% of them noted that they did not have enough physical cash, and vendors were reluctant to accept other payment options.** This challenge was particularly pronounced in Mykolaivska (18%) and Khersonska (10%) oblasts.

As a consequence, **the issue of affordability remains crucial nationwide, especially in the South, East, North, and Kyiv, where it represents a barrier to accessing goods in stores and markets.**

Figure 8: Main financial barriers* to accessing goods in stores reported by customer KIs, nationally



* The percentages were obtained from multi-choice question.

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

Current difficulties

JMMI survey findings in January revealed a notable increase in the proportion of retailer KIs reporting difficulties in maintaining operational and well-stocked stores, rising from 17% in December to 27% in January. These percentages increased the most in the East, South, and North.

Consistent with previous months, the primary difficulty reported by retailers nationwide was high prices from suppliers (17%), significantly affecting retailers across the country, especially in the West (27%), South (25%), and North (24%).

Challenges in fully staffing the shop ranked second on the list of difficulties faced by retailers, more frequently reported in the East (18%). **It is likely that the staff issue will worsen further, considering the expected limited labor market supply in 2024 due to mobilization and the slow return of migrants from abroad[6].**

Map 4: Approximate percentage of working retailers in January 2024 from the pre-war level, reported by retailer KIs, by hromada

It should be noted that retailers in regions closer to the frontline reportedly faced multiple other additional challenges, including physical hazards, storing goods during electricity outages, and accessing money or cash to pay suppliers.

According to retailer KIs' estimates in January, the lowest percentage of usual retailers that were operating was revealed in the South and East, particularly in Khersonska and Odeska oblasts, ranging from 25% to 50%. The estimated percentages at the national level were indicated to vary from 50% to 75%.

Moreover, retailer KIs in Khersonska oblast were more likely to report that stores in their marketplaces were affected by the war, sustaining severe (17%) or some structural damage (61%).

Challenges in the coming months

The survey findings reveal that **53% of retailers surveyed nationally anticipated encountering new difficulties in the near future due to the full-scale war.**

Table 4: % of retailer KIs reporting on new challenges faced since the start of the full-scale war, by type of challenge and region

	Centre	East	Kyiv	North	South	West	National
Availability of core goods		3%	0%	0%	3%		1%
Price increase among suppliers	8%	17%	2%	24%	25%	27%	17%
Liquidity to pay suppliers		4%			11%	4%	3%
Full staffing	5%	18%		6%	3%	6%	6%
Movement restrictions	2%	13%		2%	7%	1%	4%
Physical danger in the area	3%	4%			5%		2%
Storage of goods during the absence of electricity	3%	6%		3%	12%	3%	5%
Enough stock		5%			1%	2%	1%

Top 2 challenges retailer KIs expect to face in the coming months due to the war, nationally

1. 42% Rising prices
2. 36% Reduced purchasing power of customers

The most alarming situation was identified in the North, where 83% of retailer KIs reported expecting an increase in prices, and 63% anticipated a decrease in the purchasing power of customers.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Banks

In January, 62% of customer KIs reported full availability of bank branches providing all services, showing a slight decrease from the 66% reported in December. Air attacks reportedly restricted the opening hours of bank branches across the country except in Kyiv, with the highest proportion of respondents noting this in the North (40%), Centre (38%), and East (38%).

Consistent with previous months, the greatest difficulties in accessing the full spectrum of banking services were experienced by respondents in the South, with 20% of surveyed customers indicating the absence of functioning banks in their communities or nearby. These challenges were particularly pronounced in Zaporizka (with 48% of respondents) and Khersonska (36%) oblasts.

Additionally, 24% of customer KIs in Khersonska oblast reported a longer-term interruption in services such as currency exchange, issuance of loans, and acceptance of deposits, while 17% of customer KIs in Zaporizka oblast mentioned the accessibility of bank branches only in nearby communities.

ATMs

The percentage of customer KIs reporting the full availability of functioning ATMs slightly decreased from 90% in December to 87% in January.

Significant access issues were still observed in the South, with 28% of customer KIs in January reporting the absence of ATMs in their communities. The highest percentages were found in Zaporizka (66%) and Khersonska (43%) oblasts. Additionally, 33% of customer KIs in Khersonska oblast reported a longer-term interruption in services such as cash withdrawal.

Figure 9: % of customer KIs reporting availability of functioning banks, by region

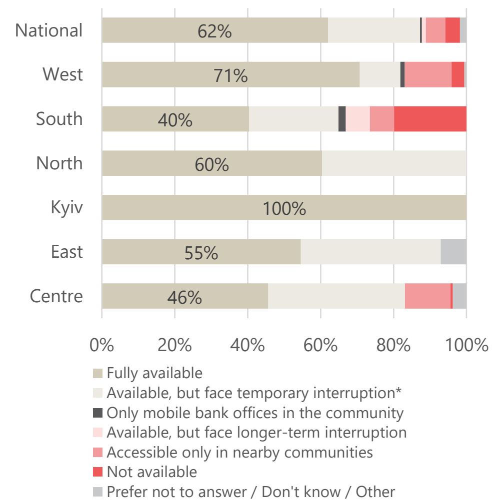


Figure 10: % of customer KIs reporting availability of functioning ATMs, by region

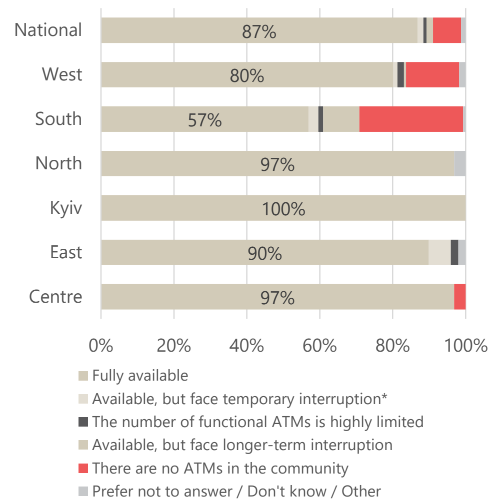
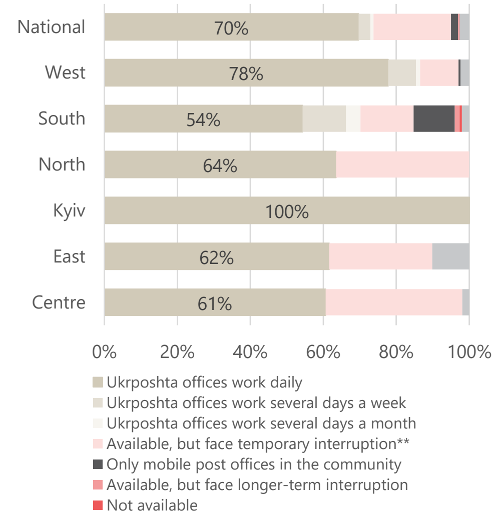


Figure 11: % of customer KIs reporting availability of functioning Ukrposhta offices, by region



Ukrposhta**

In January, 70% of customer KIs reported that Ukrposhta offices operated daily and provided all of their regular financial services, a figure nearly identical to the previous month's 68%.

Consistent with the previous months, **the survey findings did not indicate any significant restrictions on access to Ukrposhta offices.** The only reported inconvenience was that Ukrposhta offices did not operate during air alerts, primarily affecting customers surveyed in the Centre (38%) and North (36%), as well as the irregular opening of Ukrposhta offices, for example, operating several days a week or a month.

Additionally, 40% of customer KIs in Khersonska oblast mentioned the availability of only mobile post offices in their communities.

Payment modalities

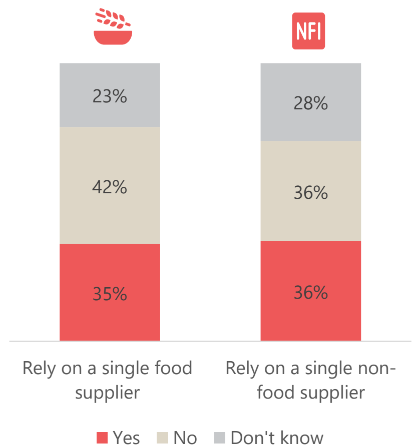
The main payment modalities accepted by retailer KIs in January were cash (100%), credit cards (93%), debit cards (66%), mobile apps (63%), and vouchers from the UN or NGOs (4%).

SUPPLY

The survey consistently reveals a concerning trend: a considerable number of businesses depend on a single supplier for either food or non-food items. This poses substantial risks in terms of sustaining the necessary stock levels.

The issue seems most pronounced in the North, with January survey findings indicating that 59% of retailer KIs in this region rely on a single supplier for food, as well as 57% for hygiene items. This tends to highlight a heightened vulnerability in the North's supply chain dynamics.

Figure 12: % of retailer KIs reporting that they mostly rely on a single supplier, nationally



* Temporary interruptions during air alerts or power outages.

** Ukrposhta is Ukraine's national post.

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MACROECONOMICS

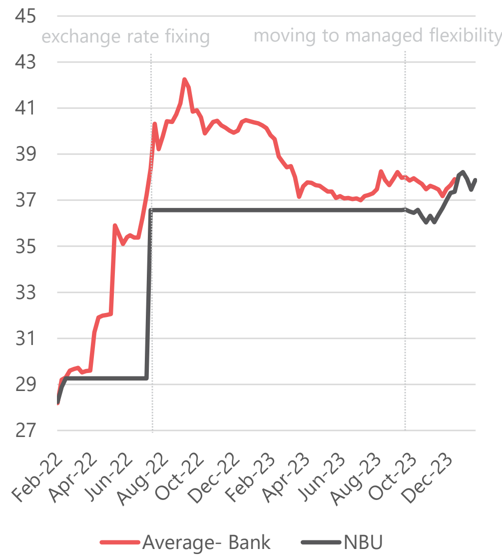
According to the data from the SSSU, the annual inflation rate decelerated to 4.7% in January 2024[7], its lowest level since November 2020[8]. In monthly terms, in January 2024, consumer prices grew by 0.4%. Food and non-alcoholic beverages became more expensive by 1.1%[9].

Inflation decelerated faster than the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) had forecast. Such dynamics were driven by an increase in supply of certain food products, second-round effects from strong harvests, a decline in global crude oil prices, and the continued moratorium on increases in utility tariffs. At the same time, the favorable effects of temporary factors that eased inflationary pressures are gradually tapering off, while the risks of a rise in inflationary pressures remain, primarily due to the impact of the war[10].

The NBU's index of business expectations fell to 41 in January, compared to 45.7 in December[11] (remaining below the neutral level of 50 points)*. That means that negative expectations prevail among the surveyed businesses. According to the NBU, the deterioration in expectations was caused by the increased intensity of hostilities, uncertainty about the timing and amount of external financial assistance, the blockade of the western borders, rising production costs to strengthen cyber defences, and a lack of qualified staff[11].

According to the SSSU[12], the negative balance of Ukraine's foreign trade in goods in 2023 increased by 2.5 times compared to 2022 (to $27.38 billion from $11.16 billion). Exports of goods from Ukraine in 2023 decreased by 18% compared to 2022 to $36.19 billion, while imports increased by 14.9% to $63.56 billion.

Figure 14: Mid-market exchange rate for the US Dollar (USD)



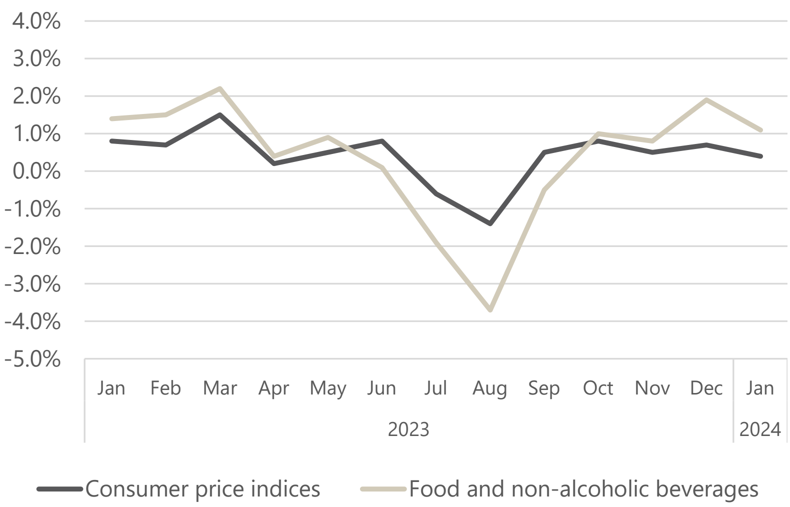
Source: MINFIN

Table 5: Top 10 oblasts with the highest average monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment (UAH) in January 2024

Oblast	Average rent in UAH	Change since Dec 2023	Change since Jan 2023
Zakarpatska	12054	▼5%	▼8%
Lvivska	11910	▲1%	▲8%
Rivnenska	9744	▲35%	▲73%
Kyiv City	8989	▲3%	▲21%
Chernivetska	8018	▲9%	▲13%
Khmelnytska	7750	▲1%	▲8%
Cherkaska	7512	▲2%	▲21%
Volynska	7473	▲25%	▲36%
Ivano-Frankivska	7157	▲17%	▲49%
Vinnytska	6334	▲3%	▲22%
Ukraine	**6818**	**▲3%**	**▲14%**

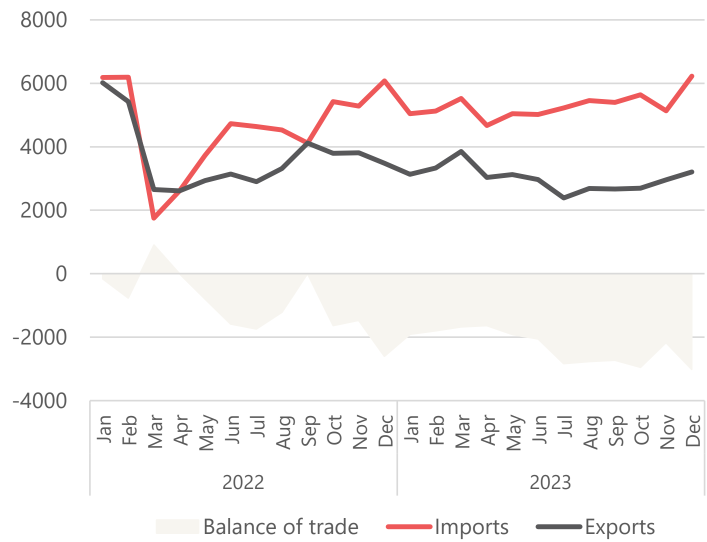
Source: SSSU

Figure 13: Monthly inflation rate (%)



Source: SSSU

Figure 15: Changes in gross value of exports and imports of Ukraine (million USD)



Source: SSSU

Table 6: Price increase of selected medicines, nationally

Representatives goods	Average consumer prices in UAH	Change since Dec 2023	Change since Jan 2023
Antibiotics of domestic brands	53.75	▲2%	▲22%
Antibiotics of imported brands	195.61	0%	▲4%
Antipyretic and analgesics of domestic brands	20.95	▲3%	▲25%
Antipyretic and analgesics of imported brands	27.64	▲3%	▲9%
Vasodilating agents of domestic brands	15.47	▲2%	▲13%
Vasodilating agents of imported brands	70.81	▲1%	▲6%

Source: SSSU

* The change in business expectations is an important subjective indicator of the economy, indicating a gradual recovery or, conversely, a deterioration in the situation.

Methodology

Data collection is a joint, partner-led exercise carried out once per month by participating CWG members across the country. The methodology for collecting primary data focuses on quantitative, structured interviews with purposively sampled interviewees. Two harmonized questionnaires are used: one targeting retail market traders who act as key informants (KIs) for their respective markets, and another targeting customers in monitored stores and marketplaces for individual interviews.

Field teams must aim to collect a minimum of three prices per item per assessed hromada, interviewing retailer KIs until this threshold is met, and must also submit a minimum of five customer KI interviews per assessed hromada. Only the price of the least expensive commonly purchased brand or variety is recorded for each item. All data is collected by field staff trained on the common JMMI methodology and tools; it is then submitted to a common CWG KoBo server and is cleaned and analyzed by REACH on behalf of the CWG.

Secondary data, in particular data from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, are also integrated into the JMMI and used for triangulation where possible.

The prices reported in this factsheet are 'location medians', designed to minimize the effects of outliers and unequal numbers of prices submitted from diverse locations. First, the median prices of each assessed item is calculated within each assessed hromada; then, for each item, REACH calculates the median of this list of hromada-level medians across larger geographical areas (raions, oblasts, regions, and the whole of Ukraine).

More details on the methodology can be found in the JMMI terms of reference (ToR), available here.

Challenges and Limitations

As the JMMI relies on purposive sampling methodologies, the results must be regarded as indicative and not representative. Furthermore, results are indicative only of market conditions during the time frame in which they were collected.

The JMMI methodology records the price of the least expensive commonly purchased brand or variety available in the store for each item. As brand availability may vary from area to area, price comparisons across areas may sometimes be based on slightly varying products.

In some cases, partners were unable to collect the minimum number of retailer KI or customer KI interviews required by the JMMI methodology. Where necessary, imputation from raion-level or oblast-level medians was used to compensate for missing prices and enable the cost of the JMMI basket to be calculated.

While the JMMI's remote monitoring methodology produces reliable data on prices and availability, further data on market functionality cannot be collected using this methodology.

As the JMMI continues to expand into new hromadas, some changes in the overall median prices may be driven by shifts in coverage rather than by true price.

About REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications

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Endnotes

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[1] National Bank of Ukraine “NBU January 2024 Inflation Update”, 12 February 2024, available here

[2] National Bank of Ukraine “NBU January 2024 Inflation Update”, 12 February 2024, available here

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[3] State Statistics Service of Ukraine “Average consumer prices for goods (services) in Ukraine in 2024”, 14 February 2024, available here

[4] National Bank of Ukraine “NBU January 2024 Inflation Update”, 12 February 2024, available here

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[5] State Statistics Service of Ukraine “Average consumer prices for goods (services) in Ukraine in 2024”, 14 February 2024, available here

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[6] National Bank of Ukraine “Inflation Report, January 2024”, 1 February 2024, available here

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[7] State Statistics Service of Ukraine “Price indices”, 9 February 2024, available here

[8] Trading Economics “Ukraine Inflation Decelerates in January”, 9 February 2024, available here

[9] State Statistics Service of Ukraine “Price indices”, 9 February 2024, available here

[10] National Bank of Ukraine “NBU January 2024 Inflation Update”, 12 February 2024, available here

[11] National Bank of Ukraine “Monthly Business Outlook Servey, January 2024”, 1 February 2024, available here

[12] State Statistics Service of Ukraine “Ukraine’s foreign trade in goods in 2023”, 14 February 2024, available here

About the CWG

The Ukraine Cash Working Group (CWG) was established in 2016 and is currently co-chaired by ACTED and OCHA. It is a technical working group within the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) under the overall strategic and programmatic direction of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). The CWG focuses on the operational coordination of Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) programming and the support to the coherence of the use of cash as a modality in the wider humanitarian response.

Participating partners

Donors