

grinders, spraying guns, etc. Electric welding equipment manufactured by "Original Equipment Manufacturer Selma" is also in great demand. The range of goods produced by the enterprise is quite wide – more than 100 items of welding facilities.

Such a chemical product as ash of soda produced by the Crimean Alkali-Works is actively sold by Crimea. The enterprise daily ships for exports more than 1500 tons of soda. "Bromine" Chemical Works is the only one in Russia specializing in the production of bromine, its inorganic salts and bromine organic compounds. They are used in production of electrical-and-engineering goods, in chemical, pharmaceutical and other industries.

Agro-industrial products rank third in the structure of Crimean exports – about 20-23%. Grain crop is of principal demand. Thus in the first six months of 2019 Crimea sold grain for amount over \$ 6.6 million. This is more than 37% of the total export revenue of the Republic over the specified period. Alcohol and non-alcohol beverages are one more major item of Crimean food exports. For the first half of the year, revenues from their sale amounted to \$ 2.3 million.

The structure of imports has undergone even more significant changes over the past six years. Before 2015, Italy, Germany and Romania were the main suppliers of goods (equipment, machinery, raw materials, and wine) to Crimea. These countries accounted for about two-thirds of total imports.

In the recent years, Belarus has assumed the leading position. By the end of 2018, the country supplied goods to Crimea for the amount of \$ 15 million. For the first half of the year,

this factor reached \$ 5.4 million. Besides, even in times of tough economic blockade goods from Ukraine still made their way to the peninsula. According to the Crimean Customs data, in 2018 total imports from the neighboring state reached \$ 16 million, and during January-June period of 2019, it exceeded \$ 10 million.



**Anatoly Aksakov,**  
Chairman of the State Duma's Committee  
on Financial Market:

– The Crimean authorities and enterprises have learned to work in the face of sanctions and find primarily those trading partners who disregard them. At the same time, our partners, who were rather concerned about sanctions, are now confidently entering the peninsula and realize that it is possible to function well here. As Karl Marx said, with 300% profit, there is no crime that capital would not risk. In other words, if there is a high rate of return, no sanctions matter.

Despite of current sanctions regime, Crimea still receives products from Italy, Germany, Spain, France, and Poland. For example, for the first half of 2019 Italy became the main supplier of goods to the peninsula from distant foreign countries (\$ 7.5 million). Trade with Turkey is being expanded, and foreign trade turnover with China is being increased.

### **If there is a benefit, there is a way out**

Distant foreign countries are mainly interested in machinery and equipment manufactured in Crimea (more than 80% of exports) as well as

## **Economy *is on the scene***

food commodities, agricultural stuffs, hardware and chemicals (about 15%). Exports of agricultural products to the CIS countries make one third (33%), machinery and equipment -28%, and chemical products – 24% of Crimean export.

Electric tools and welding equipment made in Crimea are in great demand in the ex-USSR countries (Belarus, Armenia), as well as in India. Turkey buys the produce of Crimean shipbuilding enterprises.

Soda ash is supplied to the Customs Union countries, India and Egypt, bromine and its compounds – to Ukraine, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, and India.

The major buyers of Crimean grain (wheat, barley, legumes) are the countries of the Middle East and Africa (Tunisia). Tajikistan and Turkmenistan buy chocolate produced in Crimea. In 2018, the republic sold this product to the amount of almost \$ 0.7 million.

The geography of Crimean wine's export is steadily expanding. The products of "Massandra", the leading enterprise of the republic, are supplied to Belarus, China, Taiwan, Kazakhstan, Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics. In 2018, 350 thousand bottles of wine were exported abroad. Last year, the company's exports grew to half a million bottles.

The same is observed in import structure from outside of the CIS to Crimea: machinery and equipment – nearly 50%, food commodities – 27%, hardware – 9%. Our partners from neighboring countries also supply foods (27%), hardware (24%) and mineral rock (19%) to the peninsula.

Milk, butter, cheese, farmer cheese, potatoes, canned meat and vegetables, as well as wooden construction materials are brought from Belarus to Crimea. Armenia supplies tomatoes, cognac and ethyl alcohol; Spain, Argentina, Moldova and South Africa – wine, and Italy – grape planting stock. There are also supplies of coal from Ukraine, ferrous metals and metal goods from both Ukraine and China. Besides, in 2018, the Republic imported sea freight and passenger transport from Germany and Slovakia.

### **Long-Range Partnership**

Trade with Syria is gaining traction. The first ship with grain crops has been sent from the Russian peninsula to the Arab country, and Crimea, in its turn, has obtained a shipment of Syrian citrus fruits. The volume of foreign trade between Crimea and Syria in January-June 2019 amounted to more than \$ 210 thousand. It is also supposed that Kerch Railway Switch Works product will be used to restore the Syrian railways destroyed during the war. We also plan to export high-tech equipment for oil extracting and mining and processing industries. Syria is ready to supply copper ore and phosphates to the peninsula – the raw materials necessary for Crimean chemical plants.

Moreover, at the international exhibition held in Damascus, the Crimean-Syrian trading house signed a contract with an agricultural export company from Syria. Deliveries of olive oil, lemons, oranges, grapefruits, pomegranates and other goods will be carried out through Feodosiya and Sevastopol.

The total value of contracts between Crimea and Syria is estimated at \$ 250 million. Since the Arab Republic is subject to Western sanctions, contract settles will be effected in national currencies – roubles and Syrian pounds.

# Crimea's foreign trade turnover in 2014 / 2018

*amounted*

~~\$~~ **833** million

For this period,  
the republic has  
exported goods to  
the amount of

**\$ 386 MILLION**

*and imported to the amount of*

**\$ 447** million



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