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STRENGTHENING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BANK CAPITALIZATION AS A CHALLENGE FOR THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY

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The issue of maintaining economic stability in the country is quite important and relevant at any time, and especially in the conditions of the global pandemic of COVID-19, war and other socio-political challenges. It is necessary to monitor various spheres of the state's life, identify weaknesses and develop appropriate crisis reform plans at this time.

First, when developing state economic policy, it is necessary to take into account the influence of the following factors: the quantity and quality of natural and labor resources, the amount of the country's capital and the availability of technologies. The presence and effective combination of these factors will contribute to the country's economic growth. It is worth analyzing in more detail the importance of the labor, capital and technological components of economic policy, which is especially relevant in the conditions of war.

Despite the automation of many processes, people do the maintenance of information systems. Without sufficient labor resources, these processes cannot be efficient enough. Since the beginning of the war, more than 7.7 million people left, 2.559 million returned (UKRINFORM; Obidjon, Zakharkin, Zakharkina, 2017; Hoxhaj, Muharremi, Nushi, 2022). Among the migrants, specialists in the financial, banking, and service spheres constituted a significant share. In the first days of the war after February 24, 2022, 10th part of bank employees remained on the ground, and this especially applied to the operational centers located in Kyiv. This problem was also compounded by the mass withdrawal of cash, which destabilized the banking system. Thus, the economic policy of Ukraine was influenced by the labor factor and the capital factor, and then the technological factor. Figure 1 shows a structural and logical diagram of the influence of the main factors on the economy of Ukraine since the beginning of the war.

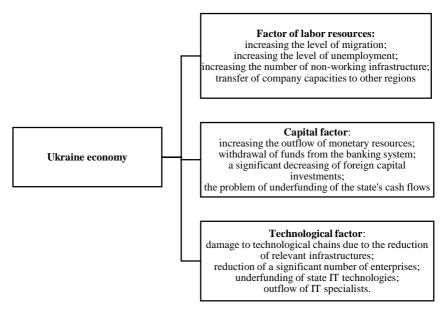


Figure 1. Structural and logical diagram of the influence of the main factors on the Ukrainian economy since the beginning of the war

Source: compiled by the author on the basis of Hayetska, 2019; Kozlovskyi, Mazur, 2017; Tiutinyk, Mazurenko, 2021; Demkiv, 2018; Goncharenko, 2020; Karaye, Ahmad-Zaluki, Badru, 2022; Melnyk, Kuchkin, Blyznyukov, 2022; Zarutska, Pavlova & Sinyuk, 2018)

Referring to the above, it can be concluded that a rational combination of labor, capital and technological factors contributes to the economic stability of the state. Thus, it is necessary to single out the main problems of the specified economic components and develop appropriate anti-crisis measures to reduce the impact of negative economic effects.

Since an important place among the factors is capital, we should consider its features in more detail. Among the problems of the capital factor of economic stability, which Ukraine faced, were an increase in the outflow of monetary resources, the withdrawal of funds directly from the banking sector, and the problem of underfinancing of the state's cash flows (Pimonenko, Radchenko, Palienko, 2017; Kotenko, Bohnhardt, 2021; Samoilikova, Kunev, 2020).

The main economic system that can solve these problems is the banking system. It ensures an efficient and uninterrupted flow of funds and is responsible for the financial maintenance of state payments.

At the current stage of economic development, one of the main problems of the banking system is maintaining its financial stability and reliability (Rizk, 2022). This

is the basis for further performance by banks of their functions of providing the country's economy with a sufficient amount of resources.

Capitalization is the main factor that has the ability to positively influence the economic processes of the state, expand the range of banking services, improve their quality, preventing significant risks and at the same time maintaining the stability of the system. Therefore, we will consider the main requirements for bank capitalization as challenges for the economy of Ukraine.

According to international standards, from January 1, 2022, banks must keep capital to cover not only credit, but also operational risks. The importance of capital requirements to cover operational risk is only increasing given the new opportunities for fraud due to the shift of business online. In order to protect customers, banks must also develop appropriate policies and operational risk management systems, which is especially relevant in times of pandemic and war (National Bank of Ukraine).

Figure 2 shows the changes in capitalization requirements of the banking system and the corresponding economic effects.

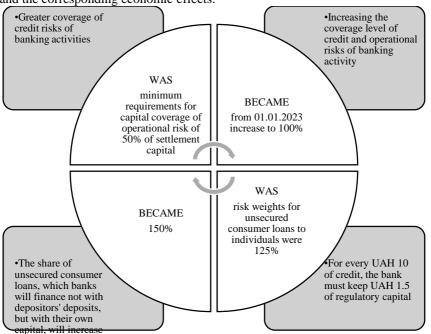


Figure 2. Scheme of increasing the requirements for bank capitalization as one of the components of the capital factor of the country's economic stability Source: created by the author based on data from the National Bank of Ukraine; Bakari, Idi & Ibrahim, 2018; Paskevicius, Keliuotyte-Staniuleniene, 2018) It is worth noting that the two-stage increase in risk weights during 2021 from 100% to 150% created an additional capital reserve to cover possible losses on consumer unsecured loans in the event of adverse conditions, to which we can include the COVID-19 pandemic (from 2019) and the beginning full-scale war in Ukraine (from February 24, 2022).

Also, the next step is to increase the risk weights for domestic state loan bonds in foreign currency to 50% with a further increase to 100% from July 1, 2022. According to the Basel standards, government securities in foreign currency are assigned risk weights depending on the international rating. For government bonds of the Ukrainian government in foreign currency, the risk weight should be 100% (Taraniuk, D'yakonova, Taraniuk, Qiu, 2020; Minchenko, Demchuk, 2021). In order to gradually bring domestic requirements into line with international standards, the risk weights are being increased gradually and only for those securities that banks buy from April 1, 2021. This design enables banks to plan their investment policy and positively influence the capital factor of Ukraine's economic stability (Vasylieva, Harust, Vinnichenko, Vysochyna, 2018; Masharsky, Azarenkova, Oryekhova, Yavorsky, 2018).

Thus, the banking system is the financial basis of the economic policy of any country. This is a collection of various types of national banks and credit institutions operating within the general monetary mechanism. Having identified the main problems of the capital factor of a stable economy of Ukraine, it can be concluded that the significant outflow of monetary resources and insufficient financing of state payments are the spheres of responsibility of the banking sector (Serpeninova, Makarenko, Plastun, Babko, Gasimova, 2020). Therefore, strengthening the requirements for the specified system will contribute to the effective regulation of cash flows and the rational conduct of financial transactions. The increase in requirements refers to capitalization as the main indicator of the financial stability of the banking system.

Among the new challenges regarding bank capitalization, the following are highlighted:

• increasing the minimum requirements for capital coverage of operational risk from 50% to 100% of settlement capital;

• increasing the risk weights for unsecured consumer loans to individuals up to 150%;

• increasing the risk weights for domestic state loan bonds in foreign currency to 50% with further growth to 100% from July 1, 2022.

Implementation of the specified requirements in the activity of Ukrainian banks will contribute to the financial stabilization of both a specific bank and the banking system as a whole, which will have a positive effect on the national economy.

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