

## **IMPACT OF SANCTUONS ON TRADE IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

The impact of sanctions on trade in the Republic of Belarus has been significant. Sanctions refer to measures imposed by one or more countries, or international organizations, to restrict or limit trade relations with a target country, often due to alleged human rights violations, political instability or aggression. Here are some key impacts of sanctions on trade in Belarus:

**Economic recession.** Sanctions led to a decline in the Belarusian economy. Since trade is restricted, it reduces the country's ability to export goods, leading to lower income and economic growth. This reduction could lead to fewer employment opportunities and lower living standards for the population.

**Reduction in trade.** Sanctions restrict both imports and exports, which affects overall trade. Import restrictions lead to shortages and higher prices, while export restrictions reduce foreign exchange earnings. This could disrupt supply chains and impact a variety of industries, including manufacturing, agriculture and energy. Since products from other countries were no longer supplied to the Republic of Belarus, instead of imported goods, Belarusian manufacturers began to create domestically produced goods and began to fill the niche of imported goods.

**Change of trading partners.** Sanctions could lead to a change in trading partners as Belarus seeks alternative markets. As traditional trading partners impose restrictions, Belarus may turn to countries not subject to the sanctions regime. Thus, Belarus completely redirected trade flows from Western countries and Ukraine to the markets of friendly countries. The share of friendly countries in exports increased by 14 %. The export of consumer goods — 111,7 % and investment goods — 106,6 % is growing at a high rate. This is facilitated by the restoration of investment activity, as well as pent-up demand in our key market — the Russian Federation. The role of China for the Belarusian economy is steadily increasing. Since the beginning of the year, mutual trade turnover has increased by 97 %, Belarusian exports by 65 %. Expanding our presence in the Chinese market is the key to the economic sovereignty of our country. Deliveries to Asian countries increased by 1,5 times, North and South America — by 1.4 times. We are steadily increasing supplies to the Chinese market: in nine months they have increased by more than 10 %.

**Political isolation.** Sanctions are often accompanied by political isolation, reduced diplomatic relations and rising tensions. This isolation makes it more difficult for Belarus to participate in international trade negotiations, enter into trade agreements or attract foreign investment.

To summarize, we can say that during the isolation Belarus tried to look for any options to advance the economic situation. Thus, Belarus is gaining new relations with the countries of Asia and Africa, and has also strengthened ties with Russia. Compared to other European countries, Belarus has advanced even more economically. This has given great progress to the export of domestic goods to other countries.

### References

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