

Olena TITIKA*

**LOCAL INDUSTRY OF UKRAINE BETWEEN 1943 - 1950:
DEVELOPMENT, FUNCTIONING AND ROLE IN PROVIDING THE
NEEDS OF THE ECONOMY AND OF THE POPULATION**

- Abstract -

The article deals with the post-war reconstruction and production activity in 1943-1950, so important to meet the needs of the economy and the population of the industrial complex of the republic as the local industry. It is analyzed the research of the mentioned problem and reason of insufficient attention of historians to its study; the scientific relevance of filling this gap in the system of historical knowledge is substantiated. The potential of the local industry of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in the prewar period and damage caused by war and occupation is characterized. Based on the use of a wide range of sources, which are first introduced into scientific circulation, the course and results of restoration works in the industry are analyzed; positive and negative processes are traced that took place in the establishment and implementation of production of economic products and consumer goods, consumer services. On the concrete actual material it is shown that despite much difficulties caused by insignificant centralized state financial and logistical support, lack of building materials, mechanisms and equipment, energy supply, production space, skilled engineering and technical staff, the reconstruction and adjustment operation of enterprises the local industry was generally implemented at a rapid pace and mostly by members of their labor collectives. It is established that the completion of reconstruction in 1948 became a turning point in building capacity of the industry and increasing its role in the development of the economy and social sphere of the republic. In 1948, the output of gross production not only reached the pre-war level, but also exceeded it, and in 1950 it was 176,3% to the level of 1940.

A specific feature of the functioning of local industry was its diversity. The enterprises of the industry manufactured commercial production and consumer goods in a wide assortment that enabled the authorities to solve economic problems in the regions in order to develop industrial and agricultural production and provide the needs of the population. At the same

* Bohdan Khmelnytsky National University of Cherkassy (cherkassy_2013@ukr.net).

time, in the postwar period, the nomenclature of products increased annually, which at the end of the five-year period had more than thousand articles.

Some plots are devoted to the implementation processes during the postwar years at the enterprises of a number of new technical and technological measures, the implementation of mechanization, concentration and specialization of production, which ensured an increase in production of industrial products, reduce its cost, improve working conditions.

Keywords: local industry, reconstruction of local industry enterprises, adjustment of production process, commercial products, consumer goods.

Despite the fact that the history of the reconstruction and development of the Ukrainian industry in 1943-1950 gained quite broad coverage in the Soviet and contemporary Ukrainian historiography, the study of the problems associated with the objective and comprehensive coverage of these processes on the basis of new methodological principles remains in the number of actual tasks of historical science. However, as in previous periods, the attention of researchers is concentrated mainly in the main industries, which reflects the main directions of the reconstruction strategy of the higher authorities of the USSR, aimed primarily at the reconstruction of heavy industries.

As a result, poorly researched, and, therefore, insufficiently highlighted, remain the issues of reconstruction and functioning in 1943-1950 of those areas of the industrial complex of the republic, which, although not considered basic and decisive for the restoration of its industrial potential, but being oriented towards the production of consumers' goods, played an important role in the revival of the entire economy and social sphere. This also applies, in particular, to the local industry of Ukraine, the state and functioning of which, in the conditions of the post-war rebirth, have not yet received comprehensive research and background both at the republican and regional levels. Until recently, there were no special publications on this topic, and the information available on a number of publications on the functioning of local industry during the specified period was of a fragmentary nature and did not reflect its actual status and role in solving the current economic and social problems in the regions and in general in Ukraine. The authors, concerning issues related to the work of local industry in the post-war period, were mainly limited to guiding indicators on the release of products and services to the population and the statement of its positive role in solving the contemporary socio-economic problems. In addition, in most cases, these indicators were presented in combination with indicators characterizing the work of other industries, in particular, in conjunction

with the indicators of industrial cooperation and cooperation of the disabled, which, as a result, distinguish the actual contribution of local industry to solving certain socio-economic problems at the republican or regional levels, is not always possible. Although in recent years the issues of the state and functioning of the local industry of Ukraine in 1943-1950 have become the subject of analysis in a number of special publications¹, yet many aspects related to the post-war rebirth of the industry and its role in the reconstruction processes in Ukraine during the specified period, need further research. First of all, it concerns such issues as organizational and logistical support of reconstruction works in the conditions of the war and in the postwar period, the consequences of reconstruction works and the functioning of the industry in the said period, its role in post-war regeneration and the development of industry, agriculture and social sphere in the regions and in general in the republic, in providing the population with consumer goods and household services, etc. Taking into account the above mentioned in this publication, the task is to characterize the results of the reconstruction and work of the local industry of Ukraine in 1943-1950, to determine its role in ensuring the needs of the economy and the population of the republic.

First of all, it must be noted that among a wide public, including among historians, there is no clear understanding of what constituted a local industry in the industrial complex of that time. It is believed that it was a complex of enterprises located in the regions of Ukraine (regions and districts) and which provided regional (that is, local) needs for industrial and consumer products. In fact, in the pre-war period, the local industry of the republic, representing a set of subordinated to the People's Commissariat of Local Industry of the Ukrainian SSR of industrial enterprises, trusts, industrial enterprises and other organizations, had a significant share in the overall balance of the Ukrainian economy. In 1941 there were 706 enterprises in the industry, including 267 factories of republican and regional subordination and 439 city and district industrial plants (to this it should be noted

¹Тітка О. О., Місцева промисловість України в початковий період післявоєнного відродження (1943 – 1944 рр.), Вісник Черкаського університету, Серія Історичні науки, 2006, Черкаси, Вип. 90, рр.101 – 109; *Її ж*, Внесок місцевої промисловості України в соціально-економічне відродження села в 1943 – 1945 рр. Український селянин, 36. наук. праць. Черкаси, Черкаський національний університет ім. Б. Хмельницького, 2006, Вип. 10, рр.356–358; *Її ж*, Місцева промисловість України в 1943 – 1945 рр., здобутки та проблеми відбудови, Україна Соборна, 36, наук. Статей, Вип. 4, Т. 2, К.: Інститут історії України НАН України, 2006, рр.292–300; *Її ж*, Місцева промисловість України в роки Великої Вітчизняної війни (1941 – 1945 рр.) Історія народного господарства та економічної думки України, 36. Наук, праць, К.: Державна установа «Інститут економіки та прогнозування НАН України», 2007, Вип. 39–40,

that in 1939-1941, 56 largest local industry factories, which annually produce of 235 million rubles, were put under the command of people's commissariats of the Union industry)². The enterprises of the local industry manufactured commercial production and consumer goods in a wide assortment, which allowed the authorities to solve economic problems in the regions in order to develop industrial and agricultural production and provide the needs of the population. In the pre-war 1940, the enterprises of the local industry of the republic manufactured products of 664 million rubles (here and thereafter in the prices of 1926/1927) ³, including: cast-iron pipes - 7204 tons, sheet metal - up to 10 thous. tons, agricultural machines - 14 674 units, tanks - 60,3 thous. cu m, metal barrels - 105,6 thous. pcs., table scales - 54,5 thous. pcs., beds - 220 thous. pcs., axes - 698 thous. pcs., shovels - 2266 tons, furnace casting - 3213 tons, locks of various kinds - 1266 thous. pcs., porcelain and earthenware utensils – 77,4 million pcs., stringed instruments - 474 thous. pcs., harmonies and accordions – 30,5 thous. pcs., pianos – 3,6 thous. pcs., buttons – 432,7 million pcs., pencils - 80 million pcs.⁴, about 40 thous. wagons and many other economic products. The technical equipment of the enterprises also allowed the production of turbines, spare parts for agricultural machinery, including to tractors, chains for combines, sprayers, and certain types of machine tools⁵.

At the same time, the enterprises carried out another extremely important function - servicing the population by metal repair, bespoke tailoring and repair of clothing and footwear. These services were provided to the population by 439 city and district industrial plants (consisting of 1978 shops, workshops and production facilities), combining this work with the production of consumer goods. In 1940, they provided services and manufactured products in the amount of 119,4 million rubles, which was 18% of the total value of the production industry ⁶. It proves that industry at the district level was a powerful segment of the production of various consumer goods and services for the needs of the population in the regions of Ukraine.

During the war the local industry of the republic suffered great losses. Due to the threat of the occupation of equipment, 14 of the most important enterprises of

pp.98–115; *Її ж*, Відбудова та розвиток місцевої промисловості України в 1943–1948 рр. Гуржіївські історичні читання, Зб. Наук, праць, Черкаси, 2007, pp.462–468 та ін.

² Центральний державний архів вищих органів влади та управління України (далі – ЦДАВО України), Ф. 4990, Оп. 1, Спр.29, Арк. 4.

³ Советская Украина в годы Великой Отечественной войны 1941 – 1945, Документи и материалы в 3-х томах, К.: Наукова думка, 1985,Т. 3, р.365.

⁴ Центральний державний архів громадських об'єднань України (далі – ЦДАГО України), Ф. 1, Оп. 76, Спр.210, Арк. 5.

⁵ ЦДАВО України, Ф. 4990, Оп. 1, Спр.29, Арк. 5.

⁶ Там само, Арк. 26.

the republican subordination, primarily metal-working, were wholly or partially exported to the eastern part of the USSR, while the other enterprises were almost completely destroyed and robbed during the fighting and occupation. The total damage caused by the war and the occupation of the industry, according to incomplete data (as of February 1946) amounted to 413 million rubles⁷.

Immediately after the liberation from the invaders in the regions, the reconstruction and adjustment of the work of industry enterprises was carried out by rapid leaps. The importance of the revival of the industry was conditioned by the reality at that time: its products were extremely necessary for the revival of the regions of Ukraine, the ruined economy and the social sphere in cities and villages, satisfaction of the needs of the extremely impoverished population in consumer goods, production inventory and materials for the reconstruction of dwelling, household appliances, clothes and footwear, equipment for institutions of education and culture. Reconstruction and production processes in the industry took place in conditions of incredible difficulties. Issuing directives on rebuilding local industry and adjustment its operation, the state authorities did not allocate the necessary funds and material and technical resources. Thus, only 0,33% were allocated from the total amount of money allocated for the years of war by the Union Government for reconstruction needs in the republic for carrying out reconstruction works in the local industry in 1944-1945.

At the same time, the funds provided to the industry in 1944 amounted to only 7,1%, and in 1945 – 7,6% of the amount of losses incurred during the war⁸. The problem was deepened by the lack of production space, building materials, equipment and machinery, energy supply, skilled engineering and labor personnel.

As a result of the reconstruction works carried out in 1943-1945, 182 enterprises of republican and regional subordination and 780 restored and newly created district and city industrial plants were put into operation, in which 7838 enterprises of shops, workshops and factories were functioned⁹. At the restored enterprises in 1944, products were manufactured in the amount of 188,3 million rubles (101,7% to the annual plan)¹⁰, which was 28,4% of the annual pre-war production¹¹, and in 1945 - by 288 million rubles¹², or 52,9% more than in 1944.¹³

⁷ ЦДАГО України, Ф.1, Оп. 76, Спр.210, Арк.5.

⁸ Там само, Арк.5, 13; спр. 152, Арк.50–51.

⁹ Там само, Спр. 210, Арк. 4.

¹⁰ Там само, Спр. 152, Арк. 36–37.

¹¹ Советская Украина в годы Великой Отечественной войны 1941 – 1945, Документи и материалы в 3-х томах, К.: Наукова думка, 1985, Т. 3, p.365.

¹² ЦДАГО України, Ф.1, Оп. 76, Спр.210, Арк. 5-7.

¹³ Советская Украина в годы Великой Отечественной войны 1941 – 1945, Документи и материалы в 3-х томах, К.: Наукова думка, 1985, Т. 3, p.366.

At the same time, consumer goods, which were supposed to satisfy the most essential needs of the extremely impoverished people during the war years, were manufactured for an amount of almost 165 million rubles¹⁴ Production in 1945 was already 43,4% of the annual pre-war production. Although it was not possible to reach the targets planned for 1945, because in 1945 local industry enterprises planned to issue products in the amount of 325,2 million rubles, which would amount to 48,1% of the annual pre-war issue¹⁵. In general, since the beginning of the reconstruction until the end of 1945, the enterprises already manufactured products amounting to 495 million rubles.¹⁶

By the rapid leaps, reconstruction works were carried out in the postwar years. Only in January-July 1946, 13 enterprises of republican subordination, 7 enterprises of regional subordination, 53 regional and city industrial enterprises, and 1156 workshops, shops and manufactures were restored and resumed work. Thus, the total number of operating enterprises of the republican and regional subordination reached 202, which was already 75,7% of their number in 1941, and the number of industrial plants was 883, that is, it increased by 444 compared with 1941¹⁷. In subsequent years, the number of enterprises in the industry was not only restored to the pre-war level, but also exceeded it. At the end of 1949, there were 835 industrial enterprises operating in the industry, including: republican subordination - 131, regional - 101, district - 603. In 1950, in connection with the implementation of measures for the specialization and concentration of a number of enterprises regional and district subordination, the elimination of part of unprofitable enterprises due to the lack of a local raw material base and the transfer of two enterprises of regional subordination in the republican, a number of enterprises in the local industry decreased to 772, of which 133 had a republic subordination, 88 - regional and 551 - district¹⁸. However, such a decrease in the number of enterprises did not affect the total production capacity of the industry, which by the end of the fourth five-year period significantly exceeded the pre-war level.

During the fourth five-year plan, the state of financial and logistical support of the industry has gradually improved, but remained inadequate. During 1946-1950, the Ministry of Local Industry for the creation of additional facilities received a centralized investment of 218 million rubles¹⁹, of which 108 million

¹⁴ ЦДАГО України, Ф.1, Оп. 76, Спр.152, Арк. 117.

¹⁵ Советская Украина в годы Великой Отечественной войны 1941 – 1945, Документы и материалы в 3-х томах, К.: Наукова думка, 1985,Т. 3, р.366.

¹⁶ ЦДАГО України, Ф.1, Оп. 76, Спр.210, Арк. 7.

¹⁷ ЦДАВО України, Ф. 4990, Оп. 1, Спр.53, Арк. 4.

¹⁸ ЦДАГО України, Ф.1, Оп. 78, Спр.360, Арк.4.

¹⁹ Там само, Оп. 30, Спр. 2120, Арк. 44.

rubles was mastered in 1946-1947, 40 million rubles. - in 1948²⁰. However, such investments were not enough to solve the problems of industry development and the adjustment of efficient production. The Ministry, trusts and enterprises were forced to search for internal reserves for the construction of industrial premises of enterprises, purchase of equipment and technical re-equipment of production. However, the funds raised in this way were small, which hampered the development of the industry.

The centralized material and technical supply of local industry from state resources was also insignificant. The analysis of documents shows that the issue of material and technical supply was perhaps the most important issue in the list of issues discussed at the meetings of the Ministry, at the meetings of its College, raised in the correspondence between the Ministry and the Councils of Ministers of the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR, trusts and enterprises with the Ministry. Particularly acute was the issue of providing enterprises with metal, chemical products, timber products, coal, electricity, due to which the implementation of industrial production plans failed to be implemented. With regard to the supply of equipment and tools by enterprises, the insignificant supply of them by state orders, focused on the use of intra-industry sources, namely: manufactured locally-produced machine tools, presses, tools, mechanical lines, etc. Enterprises of regional and district subordination, which manufactured consumer goods, worked mainly on local raw materials, although significantly dependent on the supply of fuel, electricity, certain special types of raw materials that were insufficient to ensure the proper maintenance of the production process.

The commissioning of the enterprises and the increase of production capacities ensured the growth of volumes of production and provision of services to the population. Already in January-July 1946 production in the amount of 220 million rubles were manufactured²¹. In 1947 the products were manufactured in the amount of 438,2 million rubles. In 1947 - already in the amount of 718,4 million rubles²² incl. at enterprises of republican subordination in the amount of 301,7 million rubles, and regional and district subordination in the amount of 416 million rubles²³. Thus, in 1948, production output at the enterprises of the industry not only reached the pre-war level, but surpassed it by 8,2%. In 1950, the gross output was 1170,3 million rubles, or 176,3%, to the level of 1940²⁴. In the total volume of gross output manufactured by the enterprises of the republican ministries and departments

²⁰ ЦДАВО України, Ф. 4990, Оп. 1, Спр.150, Арк. 9.

²¹ ЦДАГО України, Ф.1, Оп. 23, Спр.3977, Арк.16.

²² Там само, Оп. 30, Спр. 2120, Арк. 4.

²³ Там само, Оп. 23, Спр. 6111, Арк. 38.

²⁴ Там само, Оп. 23, Спр. 3993, Арк. 11.

of the Ukrainian SSR in 1950, the share of gross production of enterprises subordinated to the Ministry of Local Industry was 37,1%. And in the whole volume of industrial production manufactured in Ukraine by enterprises of the union republican and republican ministries and departments of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, its share amounted to 14,8%²⁵.

In the postwar years, new productions were created in the industry: machine tools, technical equipment for the needs of the republican economy, internal combustion engines, garden tractors, non-ferrous metals, radios and radio stations, electric lighting equipment, a number of new types of sports equipment and consumer goods. Mass production of machines for the needs of agriculture was organized: tractor disk harvesters, drawer-choppers, harrows, machines for mechanization of work in livestock breeding; the production of simple equestrian and manual inventory for the needs of farms and villagers has been considerably expanded.

It should be noted that in the final years of the fourth five-year, a number of new technical and technological processes were introduced into the main sub-sectors of the local industry - metal and chemical: automatic welding, centrifugal metal spillage, the introduction of operating machines in the production of parts and spare parts for agricultural machines, the use of selenium rectifiers instead of low-voltage generators (for the transformation of alternating current to constant at coating of metals - zinc plating, chromium plating), transferring of cars and internal combustion engines to natural gas, the current production of barrels, the production of sanitary faience, experiments on the melting of cast iron in peat with coke impurities, etc. were completed²⁶. These measures contributed to accelerating the process of rebuilding the industry, increasing the production of industrial products, reducing its cost, improving working conditions, etc.

At the enterprises, metal, porcelain and earthenware and plastic products of general use, varnish-painting and building materials, medical and building faience, school and office supplies and accessories, recreational supplies and haberdashery, musical instruments, wagons and walkers to them, harnesses and other equipment and equipment for caravans, agricultural machines and implements and spare parts for them, hydraulic turbines, metal-working and wood-working machines, boilers, electrical equipment, mechanisms and equipment for housing and communal services, autogenous weighing equipment, barrels and tanks, leather and footwear, wooden, resin-ceramic, felt products, fuel were manufactured; as well as maintenance of the population by metal-household repairs, bespoke tailoring and

²⁵ Там само, Арк. 10–11.

²⁶ Там само, Оп. 76, Спр. 152, Арк. 15; Оп. 30, Спр.1613, Арк. 12.

repair of clothing and footwear was carried out. It is important that the manufacture used not only stock raw materials, but also local resources of raw and materials.

A characteristic feature of the work of local industry in the postwar period was the annual increase in the range of products. So, if in 1940 the enterprises of the industry manufactured goods of 160 articles²⁷, then at the end of 1945 - in early 1946 their number was more than 500 names. In comparison with the pre-war period, 146 articles of new types of equipment and consumer goods were introduced into production²⁸. Among them: steam engines (locomotives), hydro turbines, electric motors, powerful presses, screws, aluminum pistons, electric lights and batteries, reproducers, forks, spoons and knives from stainless steel, kerogas, locks for safes, plastic cigar cases, soap dishes, thermos, soles of chlorinyl, table scales, felt hats, toilets, washbasins, eye-catching knives, sippers, siphons, buckets, cute household and others. At the end of 1946, the enterprises of the industry manufactured products of already 1002 articles²⁹, and in the future the assortment of products increased annually.

The industrial activity of local industry enterprises in the postwar years, in spite of significant difficulties in financing, equipment supply, raw materials and materials, generally had a steady tendency to increase. This, in particular, is evidenced by the data on the implementation of annual plans of the industry, which by the way grew annually: in 1946 - by 99%, in 1947 - by 105%, in 1948 - by 109%, in 1949 - by 107%³⁰, in 1950 - by 107,7%. At the same time in 1950 the increase of production in comparison with 1949 was 129,5%³¹. In particular, in 1950, at the enterprises of the industry, in comparison with the pre-war level, the production of spare parts for tractors and agricultural machinery increased by 1,8 times, the rolled metal - by 2,8 times, radiators - by 54 times, the chains of Gaul - by 1,1 times, crowns - by 1,4 times, metal ware - by 3,1 times, furnace casting - by 2,2 times, metal beds - by 1,2 times, pencils - by 1,1 times, students' pens - by 18,6 times, shoes - by 4,8 times. The production of porcelain and faience wares, stationery and school supplies, walking and carriages, harmonies, bayans, spiritual and strings musical instruments, table knives, forks and spoons, heating boilers, metal shovels and other industrial and household goods has increased in comparison with the pre-war level.

Important was the fact that, creating various, as a rule, small-sized industrial enterprises, including small towns and large rural settlements, local industry

²⁷ Там само, Оп. 76, Спр. 206, Арк. 64.

²⁸ Там само, Спр.152, Арк. 65, 78.

²⁹ Там само, Арк. 64.

³⁰ Там само, Оп. 23, Спр.3993, Арк. 4.

³¹ Там. Само, Оп.76, Спр.5885, Арк.1.

developed industrial production in distant areas from industrial centers, attracted to productive labor in the public production of the local population. In 1948, the enterprises of the industry employed 87,2 thous. workers, engineers and technicians and employees³². By means of it, more than 400 thous. members of the families of local workers have a more or less secure source of vital needs.

At the same time, along with significant positive results, there were serious shortcomings in the work of the local industry. The largest of them were: low quality part of the manufactured products, first of all, consumer goods; lack of production of a large assortment of products from planned tasks; a significant part of enterprises from year to year did not fulfill plans for manufacture of production and consumer goods; due to shortcomings in the organization of the production process and inadequate level of mechanization in the industry, there were many unprofitable enterprises (in particular, in 1948, out of 875 enterprises, 297 worked unprofitable, causing a loss of 33,5 million rubles)³³; the total labor productivity of the workers in the industry was low etc.

Summarizing the above, we note that in spite of significant difficulties and problems, in general, successful reconstruction and work in the post-war years of the local industry had positive consequences for solving the priority tasks of the revival of the economy and the social sphere of the republic. Manufactured at the enterprises products and services provided to the population were extremely valuable in the complex conditions of the postwar period. At the same time, the work of local industry was negatively affected by the factors associated with insufficient in the recovery period of financing and allocation of stock raw materials and materials, poor energy supply, lack of skilled engineering and technical personnel and workers, their high turnover in the industry, sometimes low qualification of enterprise managers and other. This led to underutilization of planned tasks for the manufacture of production and consumer goods, their low quality. Analysis of these and other problems in the work of the local industry in Ukraine in the post-war period requires a separate study. The public need in this segment of historical knowledge stems from the need to study and take into account the experience of the revival (and in fact – “greenfield establishment”) of the production of those products that were of paramount importance for meeting the daily needs of people.

³² Там само, Спр.5, Арк. 5.

³³ Там само, Арк. 7.