Azov Sea Area regional recovery review

Situation overview and profile of the ASA region in 2018/2019

Background

Over the past seven years, it has been well established that the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine has affected economic, social and civic dynamics, and hazard exposure in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.[1] Less analysis has been conducted on the conflict's consequences for the wider Azov Sea area (ASA), inclusive of Donetsk (Government-controlled area, GCA), Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts. Given the proximity of these oblasts to the eastern conflict area and Crimea, recent events there may affect social and economic dynamics in the broader south-eastern region.

Further to economic and social considerations, Ukraine has in recent years committed to account for environmental well-being in planning for the future, for example in the Association Agreement with the European Union (EU).[2] In light of this, a regional analysis of the environmental, social and economic trends in ASA is necessary to inform the work of the humanitarian and development community.

The ASA regional recovery factsheet series

The ASA regional recovery review will include a series of five quarterly publications focused on recovery trends and resilience capacities in the ASA. As the first in the series of quarterly factsheets, this document seeks to provide an overview of the region in 2018/2019, mianly prior to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.
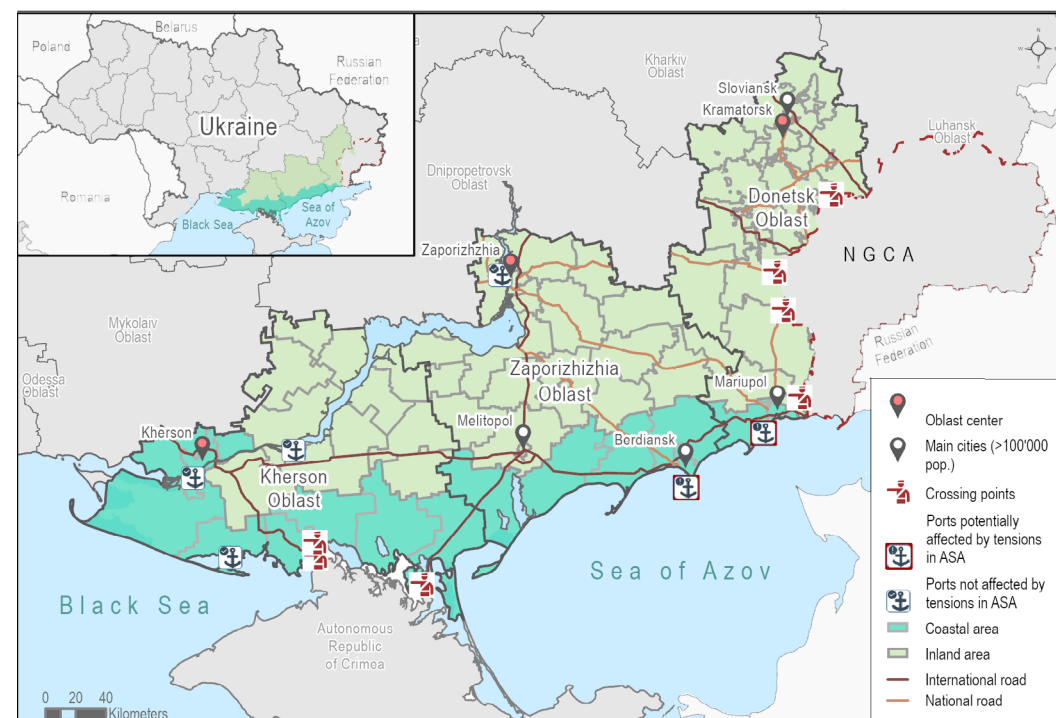
In creating the ASA overview between September and December of 2020, the research team conducted a broad review of state and oblast statistics, key strategic documents, publicly available analyses and briefs from both national and international agencies, and Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Index implemented by Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD). The research team acknowledges the link between resilience and balancing environmental, social and economic considerations for long-term sustained recovery. The factsheets will therefore explore inter-linkages between environment, society and economy. Future factsheets will focus on the impact of concomitant shocks on the region between 2010 and 2020 (including but not limited to those listed to the right), areas and populations most affected by these shocks, and geographic variation in rates of recovery. A list of other information products associated with the ASA regional recovery review is provided on page 2. "Supporting greater resilience in the Sea of Azov region" is a programme funded by the European Union and implemented by ACTED, IMPACT Initiatives (IMPACT), and SeeD. Further information may be found online.[3]

Figure 1: Timeline of potential shocks that may have affected the ASA between 2010 and 2020.

- 2010
- Recession in Ukraine 2012
- Onset of conflict in the east and Crimea 2014
- Kerch strait incident 2018
- COVID-19 pandemic 2020
- 2021

Map 1: The Azov Sea area (ASA) includes Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson oblasts.

Content of this factsheet

⬅️ Situation overview and profile of the ASA region in 2018/2019

Key observations

The main observations on the environmental, social and economic characteristics of the ASA made during the literature and secondary data review (LSDR) and included in this factsheet are:

- Water availability was a key issue for the area in 2019 and will likely be an issue going forward. This was demonstrated in the Water Scarcity Index developed by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and GRID-Arendal in which Kherson oblast, west Zaporizhzhia and south-southern Donetsk oblast were identified as being in high stress.[17] This may have impacts on water availability for industry and agriculture, on which the ASA rely for a large proportion of employment.

- According to State Statistics data, emission of air pollutants per square kilometre was higher in ASA as compared to national values, namely in Donetsk and, to a lesser extent, Zaporizhzhia oblast.[24] In 2019, Ukraine was ranked 4th in Europe for the number of pollution–related deaths per 100,000 population.[28] According to State Statistics data, in 2019, oblasts in the ASA had a higher count of deaths per 100,000 population amongst individuals aged 0—59.[30] Addressing emissions in the ASA may be key to improving health outcomes.

- Movements in this direction had commenced in Kherson oblast in 2019, with a large proportion of electrical power generated through cleaner, renewable sources in 2019.[9] However, investment in environmental protections is quite low in ASA as a proportion of gross regional product in comparison to average spending in the EU.[31]

- Oblasts in the east of the area (Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia), had a higher gross regional product (GRP) per capita compared to the national average and high reliance on industry as a value-adding industry.[36, 33] Kherson oblast, on the other hand, had a lower than average GRP and relied primarily on agriculture as a value-adding industry.

- All ASA Oblasts were more reliant on a single industry than the national average for value-add and exports.[33, 60] They were also more reliant on a small number of trading partners for exports as compared to the national average.[48] Capital investment in all ASA oblasts also tended to focus on a single sector of the economy.[53]

- All ASA Oblasts had a lower than average number of enterprises per capita.[39] The number of micro enterprises per 100 businesses, however, closely mirrors the national average.[40] Enterprises in all ASA oblasts had a lower value of goods and products sold per employee as compared to the national average.[41] They all also had a higher cost of labour in comparison to the total value of goods and services sold.[43]

- Small enterprise in Donetsk oblast had a lower than average role in producing value through sales of goods and services, and providing employment.[39, 40] Conversely, Kherson oblast was more reliant on small enterprise for these. Small businesses also appear less profitable in Donetsk, as they record a lower value of goods and services sold per employee.[42]

- Oblasts in the west of the area, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, had a lower than the national average value of capital investment per person employed.[55] The main investments were in machinery or infrastructure. Investment in industry were in metallurgy in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia and food processing in Kherson oblast.[50]

- Zaporizhzhia, Mariupol, Kherson, Melitopol and Berdyansk cities are the largest economic hubs in the region both in terms of turnover in goods and services sold and the main mode for freighting goods is road transport.[45, 56]

- In 2019 and 2020, unemployment in the ASA was higher than the national average.[60] According to State Employment Services, the largest proportion of people registered for assistance had previously been employed as process and plant workers.[67] Wages were lowest in Kherson (8,200 UAH per month on average).[62]

- In all ASA oblasts, household incomes were lower than the national average.[63] The proportion of households in all ASA oblasts reporting that they did not always have enough money for food was higher than average.[66] Donetsk oblast appeared to have greater inequity in wealth distribution.[69]

- In planning, development actors may consider the key civic characteristics of the ASA: higher social tolerance, higher family coherence, lower civic optimism and higher passive citizenship.

Methodological note

Products in the ASA regional recovery review series:

5 quarterly "ASA regional recovery profile" factsheets – each factsheet will provide an overview of the secondary data findings focused on an aspect of recovery in the ASA.

A dashboard exploring geospatial trends in ASA, particularly around trade and environment. This will be a companion piece to the quarterly factsheet.

Based on the information in the factsheets and dashboard, the research team will organise two ASA Data for Recovery reflection workshops in October 2021 and early 2022.

Through the workshops, the research team will develop recommendations on the development of an ongoing ASA barometer to track key indicators over time.

Environmental characteristics of the ASA

This section explores some of the key environmental characteristics and issues in the ASA during 2019. Key learnings are:

Land use and resources

Mineral resources: Number of active sites for base metals deposit extraction, 2020.[9] Donetsk oblast has a significant number of the metal deposits in Ukraine, Zaporizhzhia is recorded to have a few sites.

| 80 | National |
18	Donetsk
4	Zaporizhzhia
0	Kherson

Agricultural assets in 2019, agricultural lands as % of total land cover.[10] Compared to the national trends, the proportion of land used for agriculture is high in the ASA, particularly in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.

National	68%
Donetsk	77%
Zaporizhzhia	82%
Kherson	69%

Marine and river assets in 2019, water as % of total land cover.[11] Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts have above average access to water resources, both via the Dnipro River and Black/Azov Seas.

National	5%
Donetsk	2%
Zaporizhzhia	6%
Kherson	15%
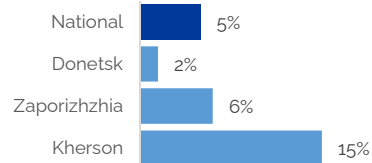
Preservation and recreation, nature reserves and national parks in 2019, % of total land cover[12]. Kherson oblast has above average access to nature reserves and national parks, with a higher proportion of land use dedicated to these areas.

National	3%
Donetsk	2%
Zaporizhzhia	3%
Kherson	11%
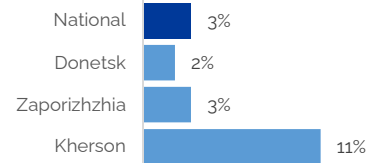
Harnessing renewables, energy generated via wind or solar in 2019, % of total land cover.[13] Kherson oblast had a higher than average production of renewable energy sources.

National	3%
Donetsk	0%
Zaporizhzhia	0.4%
Kherson	51%
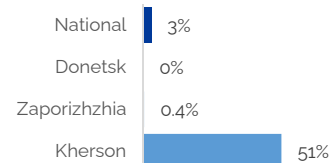
Sustainable mariculture and tourism in the Azov-Black Sea sub-region are set goals of the recently adopted State Regional Development Strategy (2020).[14] Tourism infrastructure appeared less developed in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia as compared to Kherson oblast in 2019 (5 hotels per 100,000 inhabitants as compared to 9 per 100,000).[9]

Map 2: Land coverage in the Azov Sea Area, 2019.[4]

The Sea of Azov:

- Is one of the smallest, shallowest and most productive seas. The average depth is 7 metres, meaning that dredging is required for cargo ships to pass. It has historically been one of the most productive and oldest fishing basins in the world, although it is reported that productivity of the waters has dropped due to anthropogenic and natural causes.[5]
- Is connected via the narrow Kerch Yenikale Canal to the Black Sea. It is prohibited to enter the canal during periods of fog, snowfall, mist, heavy rain, or if wind speed is over 14 mps. In 2007, there was a major shipping disaster in which 4 vessels were sunk and 1,300 tonnes of oil spilled due to storm.[6]
- Has a very large watershed in relation to its size, the area is equal to 570,000 km² or approximately 15 times the sea area (38,000 km2).[7]
- Is mainly fed by the Don and Kuban Rivers, accounting for approximately 90% of inflow, and a number of smaller rivers on the southern Ukrainian coast.[8]

Situation overview and profile of the ASA region in 2018/2019

Water availability in the ASA

Given the prominence of agricultural land use in the ASA and reports that water scarcity will increasingly become an issue in Ukraine,[18] this current section attempts to briefly summarise the water availability and use in the area.

Water withdrawal from natural water bodies, 2019: thousands of cubic meters per square kilometre.[26] All three of the ASA oblasts withdraw water from natural water bodies at a higher rate than the national average.

National	Donetsk	Zaporizhzhia	Kherson
18	68	44	92
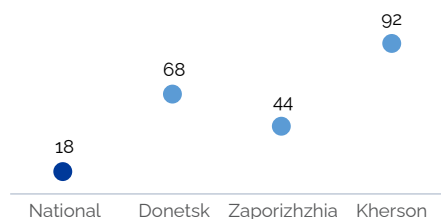
Cubic meters from natural surface waters, 2019: as ratio per 100 cubic metres drawn. from all sources[17] Both Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts rely on water from surface sources more than the national average.
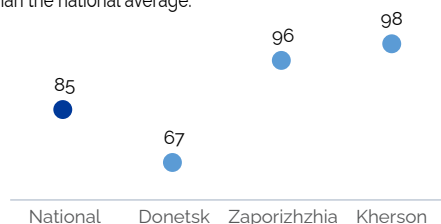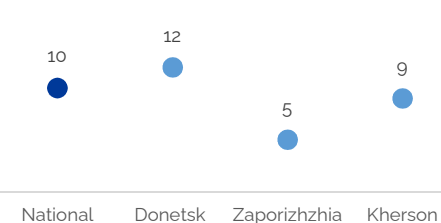

National	Donetsk	Zaporizhzhia	Kherson
85	67	96	98

Water lost in transit, 2019: cubic meters per 100 cubic metres drawn from natural water bodies[16] The proportion of water lost in transit to the the end user is highest in Donetsk oblast.

| National	Donetsk	Zaporizhzhia	Kherson
10	12	5	9

Map 3: Average annual rainfall in Ukraine, 2019.[19] The ASA on average receives less rainfall than the eastern and northern parts of the country. For example, the area around Kherson and Zaporizhzhia oblasts receives less than 400 mm annually on average.
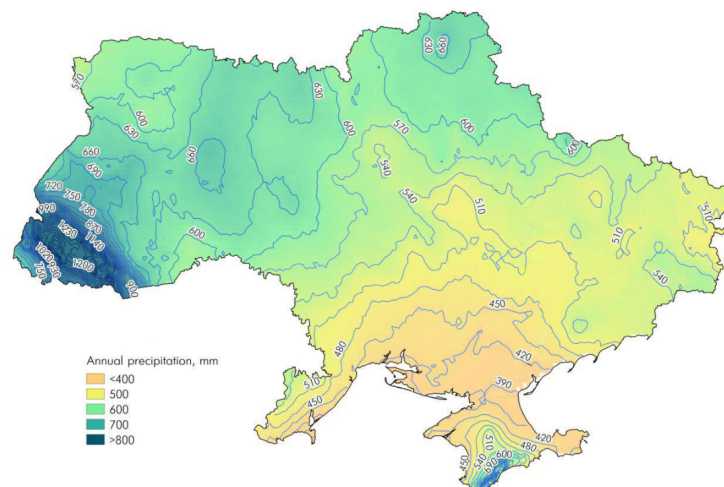
Water used in industry and agriculture, 2019: cubic meters per million in gross regional product (GRP).[21] The water-intensity of the oblasts in the ASA was higher in 2019 than the national average.

National	Donetsk	Zaporizhzhia	Kherson
1,525	5,598	6,863	15,418
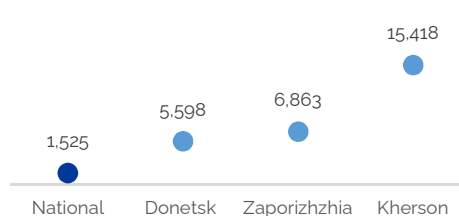
Household water consumption, 2019: water for drinking and sanitation, m³ per capita[22] Per capita Donetsk oblast is recorded to have lower consumption of water as compared to the national average.

National	Donetsk	Zaporizhzhia	Kherson
27	24	37	36
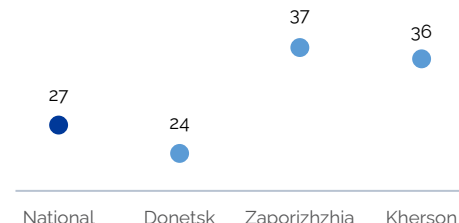
Map 4: UNEP-GRID water scarcity Index.[20] The map shows that regions in the ASA suffer from high water stress, for example Kherson and Zaporizhzhia oblasts. The study identifies competition for water (agriculture, industry, and households) as a reason for water stress in south-eastern Ukraine.[13]
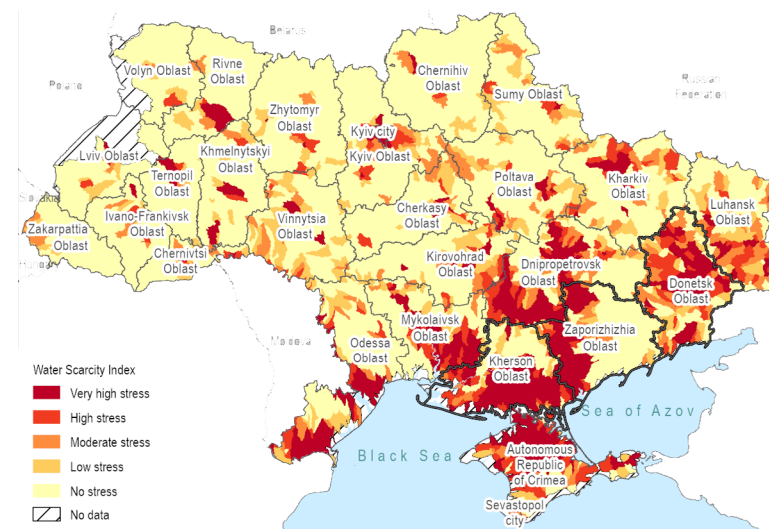
Proportion of water used for drinking and sanitation, 2019: % of total[15]. A smaller proportion of withdrawn waters are allocated to drinking and sanitation in the ASA.

National	16%
Donetsk	8%
Zaporizhzhia	6%
Kherson	4%

Water shortages, 2018/2019: % of respondents experiencing water shortage[24] Residents of Donetsk were more likely to report experiencing water shortages.

National	14%
Donetsk	22%
Zaporizhzhia	7%
Kherson	N/A

Availability of irrigation, 2019: % of agricultural lands with irrigation[23] A small proportion of agricultural lands in the ASA are irrigated, this is highest in Kherson oblast (13%).

National	1%
Donetsk	0.10%
Zaporizhzhia	3%
Kherson	13%
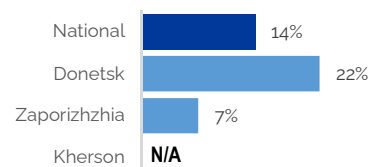
Increase in irrigation equipment: % increase in machines/equipment for irrigation at private farms between 2018 and 2019[25] Equipment in Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts increased at a higher rate.

National	120%
Donetsk	100%
Zaporizhzhia	141%
Kherson	128%

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Pollution and waste generation

Pollution and waste levels in the ASA deviated from national averages during 2019 in the following ways:

Concern about environment, 2018/2019: % of respondents being very concerned about environmental risks in their locality, 2019.[29] A higher proportion of SCORE Index respondents in the ASA reported concern about environmental risk (2 percentage points (pp) higher in Donetsk oblast and 15pp higher in Zaporizhzhia oblast).[25]

National	36%
Donetsk	38%
Zaporizhzhia	51%
Kherson	N/A
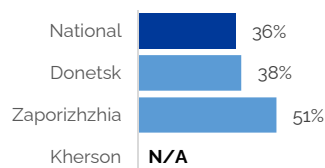
While data is not available on the main cause of these concerns at the national or regional level, data collected under the AGORA project suggests that in the assessed communities across Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts the primary concerns were as follows in 2019/2020:

Top environmental concerns in Donetsk and Luhansk, 2019/2020: % of respondents by environmental concern (note, respondents could select more then one response).[27]

1. Illegal landfills	**25%**
2. Air pollution	**22%**
3. Water pollution	**20%**
4. Deforestation	**11%**
5. Waste production	**7%**
6. Forest fire	**5%**
7. Land degradation	**3%**

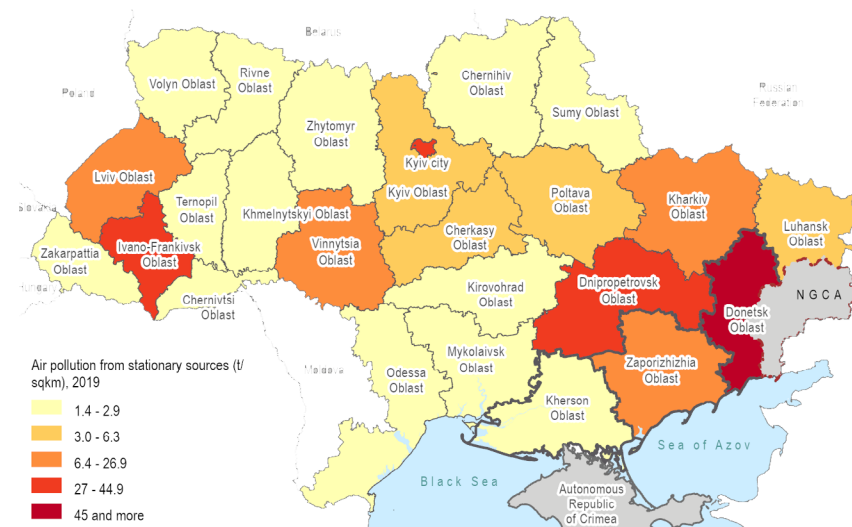**Map 5: Total air pollutant emissions by oblast across Ukraine, 2019**[28] Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk oblasts recorded higher air pollution emissions per km² (see Map 5). Donetsk oblast has the highest density of air pollution per square kilometre nationally.[24]

Air pollution from stationary sources (t/sqkm), 2019

- 1.4 - 2.9
- 3.0 - 6.3
- 6.4 - 26.9
- 27 - 44.9
- 45 and more

Density of air pollutants, 2019: emissions in tons per km² by type and by oblast[30] Donetsk has the highest level of air pollutants emissions per square kilometre, both in comparison to the national average and other ASA oblasts. This is true across the four observed emissions types listed below (particulate matters, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen, and carbon dioxide).

Type of emission	National	Donetsk	Zaporizhzhia	Kherson
Particulate suspended matters	0.6	3.1	0.5	0.05
Sulphur dioxide	1.3	9.3	3.1	0.03
Nitrogen oxide	0.013	0.018	0.005	>0.0
Carbon dioxide	0.2	1.0	0.6	0.01

Density of waste generation and accumulation, 2019: per km² by oblast, 2019[31] Donetsk oblast generates a higher number of kilograms of waste per square kilometre (996 per square kilometre) and has the highest level of waste accumulation per square kilometre .

Type of issue	National	Donetsk	Zaporizhzhia	Kherson
Waste generation, kg	766	996	199	13
Waste accumulation, tons	26,707	34,077	6,441	48

Environmental health

Data on pollution-related death is not available on a regional level for 2019. This could however be an important area for exploration as:

> Ukraine ranked **4th** within Europe for pollution-related deaths in 2019.[32]
>
> Estimated number of deaths per 100,000 in:
>
> 1. **Serbia:** 175
> 2. **Georgia:** 140
> 3. **Bulgaria:** 137
> 4. **Ukraine:** 128

Estimated pollution-related deaths in Ukraine by cause, 2019[31]

- Air pollution
- Other
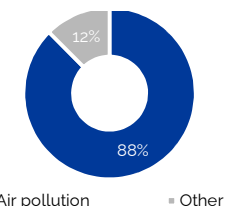
Deaths from all causes, 2019: per 100,00 population aged under 60 years[34] The number of deaths per 100,000 amongst of individuals aged 0 - 59 was higher in the ASA than nationally in 2019. Donetsk saw the highest count with 571 per 100,000.[33] A similar pattern was observed for cancer related deaths (national: 73 per 100,000; Donetsk: 92; Zaporizhzhia: 88; Kherson 78).

National	Donetsk	Zaporizhzhia	Kherson
410	571	470	463
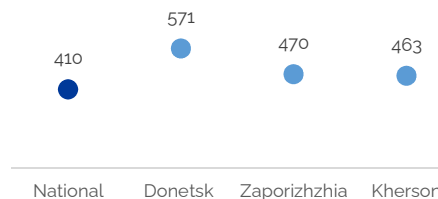
In comparison to the average across the EU28, investment in environmental protection as a proportion of gross regional product (GRP) is low in Ukraine (0.7%) and the ASA generally.[26] Kherson oblast has the lowest level of investment in the ASA (0.02% of GRP).

Total cost of environmental protection in 2019 as % of gross regional product in 2018 was:[35]

National:	0.7%
Donetsk:	1.1%
Zaporizhzhia:	1.7%
Kherson:	0.02%

In comparison, average environmental protection expenditure in the European Union in 2017 was 2% of gross domestic product.[36]

Economic characteristics of the ASA

Oblasts in the east of the area, Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia, had a higher GRP per capita compared to the nation and high reliance on industry as a value-adding industry. [36, 33] Kherson on the other hand, had a lower than average GRP and relied primarily on agriculture as a value-adding industry. All ASA Oblasts were more reliant on a single industry than the national average for value-add.

GRP per capita in UAH, 2018[38]

84	**National**
103	**Donetsk**
86	**Zaporizhzhia**
53	**Kherson**

Top sectors, 2018: by % of gross value added[37]

National: Industry (15%), Trade & repair (13%). Agriculture, forestry & fisheries (11%).

Donetsk oblast: Industry (26%), Mining & quarrying (22%), Trade & motor vehicle repair (7%).

Zaporizhzhia oblast: Industry (30%), Trade & repair (11%), Energy production (10%); Agriculture, forestry and fisheries (10%).

**Kherson oblast:** Agriculture, forestry & fisheries (30%), Industry (11%), Trade & repair (10%).

Number of registered enterprises, 2019: Count per 10,000 inhabitants.[39] All ASA Oblasts had a lower than average number of enterprises per capita.

99 National
51 Donetsk
92 Zaporizhzhia
80 Kherson
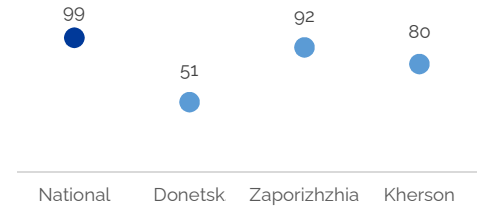
Number of micro-enterprises, 2019: microenterprises per 100 businesses.[40] The number of micro enterprises per 100 businesses, however, closely mirrors the national average.

82 National
81 Donetsk
84 Zaporizhzhia
85 Kherson
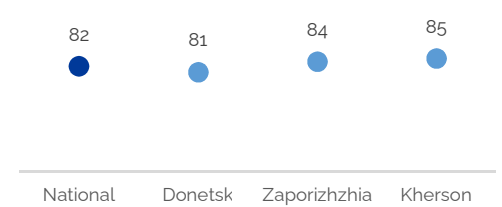
Goods and products sold by small enterprise, 2019: % of total of goods and services.[41] Small enterprise in Donetsk oblast had a lower than average role in producing value through sales of goods and services (10% of total goods and services sold). Conversely, small enterprise generated 42% of the total value of goods and services sold in Kherson oblast.

National	21%
Donetsk	10%
Zaporizhzhia	22%
Kherson	42%
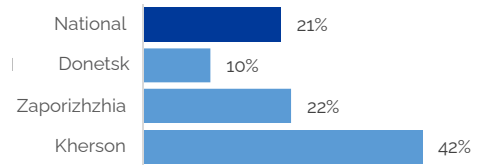
Employment in small enterprise, 2019: % of total of employment with enterprises.[42] Small enterprise in Donetsk oblast provided a lower than average proportion of jobs in comparison to the national average (17% of employment in enterprise). Conversely, small enterprise generated 41% of the total employment in enterprise in Kherson.

National	27%
Donetsk	17%
Zaporizhzhia	26%
Kherson	41%
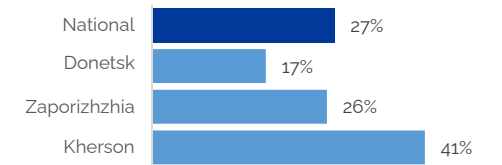
Goods and services sold by all enterprises, 2019: value in hryvnia (UAH) per employee.[43]

1,527 National
1,359 Donetsk
1,121 Zaporizhzhia
919 Kherson
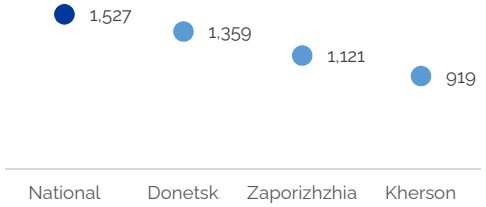
Cost of labour, 2019: as % of total value of goods and services sold.[45]

National	10%
Donetsk	13%
Zaporizhzhia	13%
Kherson	13%
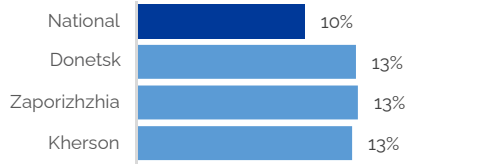
Goods and services sold by small enterprises, 2019: value in UAH per employee.[44]

1,154 National
803 Donetsk
951 Zaporizhzhia
941 Kherson
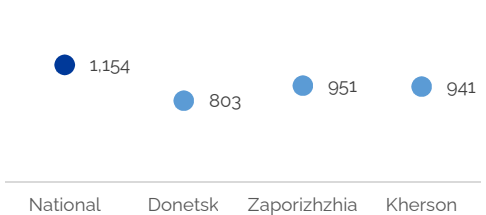
Proportion of enterprises running at a loss, 2019: small enterprises running a loss as % of all small enterprises.[46]

National	27%
Donetsk	22%
Zaporizhzhia	24%
Kherson	23%

Map 6: The travel time zones from cities with 100,000+ population in the ASA.[47] Zaporizhzhia, Mariupol, Kherson, Melitopol and Berdyansk are the largest cities in the region both in terms of population and turnover in goods and services sold.

Total reported goods and services sold, thousand UAH[48]

1. **Zaporizhzhia city**
   256,659,891
2. **Mariupol**
   254,948,779
3. **Kherson city**
   51,796,498
4. **Melitopol**
   12,902,197
5. **Berdyansk**
   11,262,866
6. **Nova Kakhovka**
   6,852,351
7. **Kakhovka**
   5,266,799
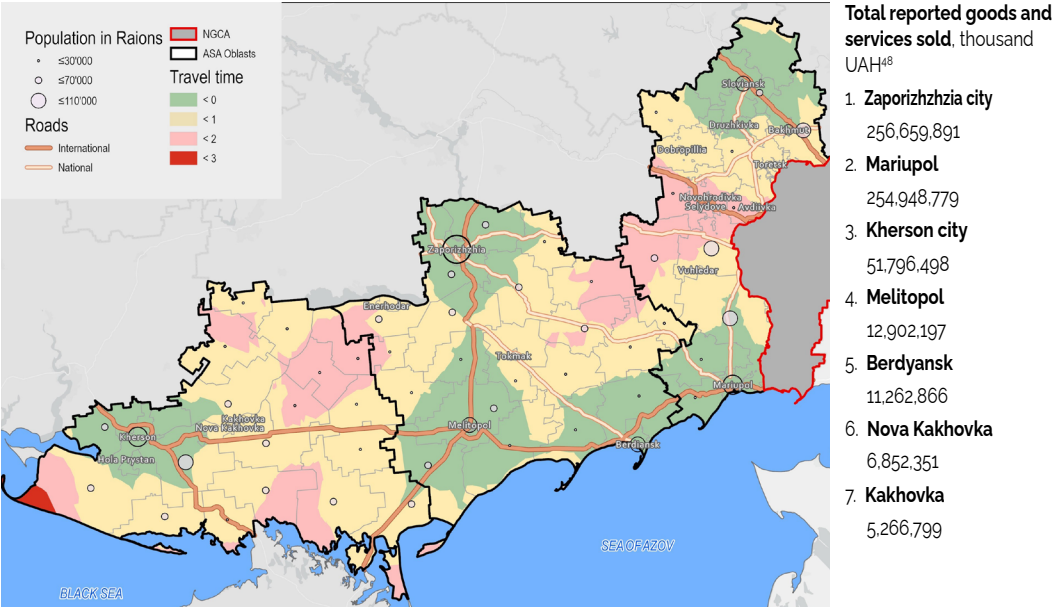
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Capital investments

Capital investment in the ASA during 2019 was characterised by the following:

Capital investment, 2019, Value of investment per worker aged 15-70, thousands of UAH.[57] Investment per worker was higher in Donetsk oblast compared to the national average, and lower in Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts.

90,660

65,523

43,222   43,907

National   Donetsk   Zaporizhzhia   Kherson
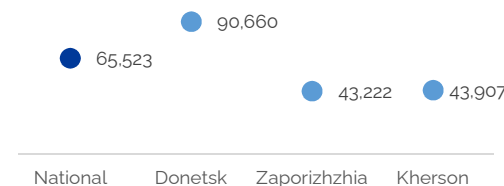
Capital investment, 2019, as % of value of goods and services sold.[53] As a proportion of the value of goods and services sold, investment in the ASA oblasts did not vary in comparison to the national average, with the exception of Donetsk oblast.

National	4%
Donetsk	7%
Zaporizhzhia	4%
Kherson	5%

Sectors receiving the highest investment, 2019: % of total investment.[55] Capital investment in all ASA oblasts also tended to focus on a single sector of the economy.

National: Industry (40%), Construction (10%). Agriculture, forestry & fisheries (9%).
Donetsk oblast: Industry (67%), Public administration (10%), Information and telecommunications (5%).
Zaporizhzhia oblast: Industry (59%), Agriculture, forestry and fisheries (12%) Public administration (7%).
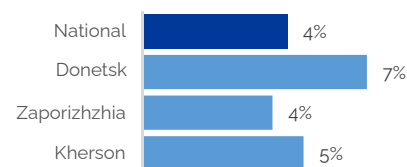**Kherson oblast:** Industry (62%), Agriculture, forestry & fisheries (19%), Public administration (7%).

Top asset type by investment value, 2019, % of total value invested in 2019.[52] The value of investment was highest in machinery and inventory in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, and infrastructure in Kherson, following large investments in the oblast's renewable energy sector in early 2019.[52]

Donetsk oblast: Machinery/ inventory (51%)

Zaporizh. oblast: Machinery/inventory (43%)

Kherson oblast: Infrastructure (60%)

Top asset type by increase in investment value, 2018 to 2019, % increase in investment value in top assets between 2018 and 2019.[56] Growth in investment by asset type across the ASA area was highest for land acquisition (+152%) and infrastructure (+128%) in Kherson.

Donetsk oblast: Land acquisition (+83%), software and data bases (+57%)

Zaporizh. oblast: Software and data bases (12%), Machinery/inventory (1%)

Kherson oblast: Land acquisition (+152%), infrastructure (+128%),

Freight and trading network

Proportion of the volume of freighted goods (tonnes) by mode of transport, 2018/2019, % of total.[58] For all oblasts in the ASA, road freight accounted for the highest volume of goods, when measured by weight.

	Rail	Marine/ River	Road
Donetsk	28.3%	0.1%	71.6%
Zaporizhzhia	28.8%	1.5%	69.7%
Kherson	22.1%	10.9%	75.2%

Exports and movement of goods

Value of exported goods and services, 2019, millions of UAH.[51] Donetsk exports the highest volume of goods by value (UAH), while Zaporizhzhia exports the highest volume of services by value. Kherson has a high ratio of services to goods export.

	Donetsk	Zaporizhzhia	Kherson
Goods, 2019	4632	3081	268
Services, 2019	91	200	40
Service as % of total export	2%	6%	15%

Main exported products, % of total value in USD, 2019.[49] All ASA Oblasts were more reliant on a single industry than the national average for exports.

26% Plant-based products	75% Ferrous metals	51% Ferrous metals	43% Plant-based products
Ukraine	Donetsk	Zaporizhzhia	Kherson
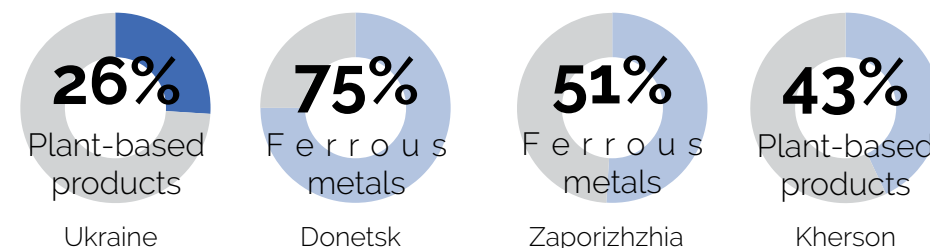
Main export destination, % of total value in USD, 2019.[50] They were also more reliant on a smaller number of trading partners for exports as compared to the national average.

14% China and Poland	37% Italy and Russia	25% Russia and Turkey	25% Turkey and Netherlands
Ukraine	Donetsk	Zaporizhzhia	Kherson
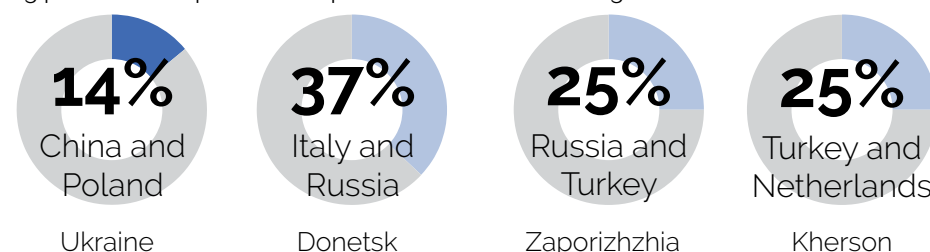
Eco-efficiency

As reported in UNDP's review of regional Sustainable Development Goal indicators, in 2016 Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia had high energy intensity as compared to the national average. Donetsk and Kherson had higher than average electrical power loss in the distribution system.[54]

Measures of eco-efficiency, 2016.	National	Donetsk	Zaporizh.	Kherson
Energy intensity, tones of oil equivalent per million GRP (UAH)	55	188	106	27
Electric power distribution losses, %	12	15	9	16
Heat losses in heat networks, %	19	3	18	19

Situation overview and profile of the ASA region in 2018/2019

Labour market

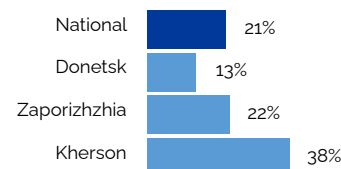**Employment rate, 2019**, % of people aged 15—70 year.[59] As compared to the national average, Donetsk oblast had a lower employment rate while Zaporizhzhia and Kherson were closer to the average.

National	58%
Donetsk	51%
Zaporizhzhia	58%
Kherson	59%

Informal employment, 2019, % of people aged 15—70 year and in employment.[60] Informal employment was higher than average in Kherson oblast.

|	
National	21%
Donetsk	13%
Zaporizhzhia	22%
Kherson	38%

International Labor Organization (ILO) unemployment rate, 2019, for population aged 15 – 70 years by oblast.[61] Unemployment was higher than average in Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts.

National	8%
Donetsk	14%
Zaporizhzhia	10%
Kherson	10%
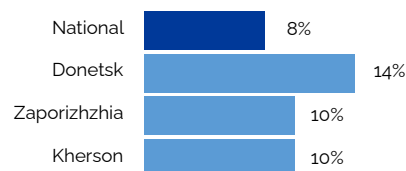
Number of registered job-seekers per vacancy, 2019: ratio by oblast.[62] There was a higher number of job-seekers per vacancy in the 3 oblasts in the ASA as compared to national average.

National	Donetsk	Zaporizhzhia	Kherson
6	16	17	24
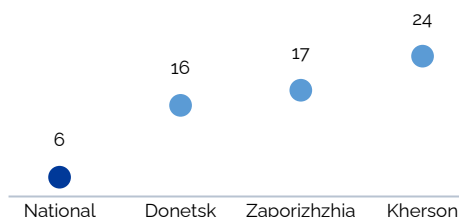
Average monthly wage of contracted employees, 2019, in thousand UAH.[64] While Kherson and Zaporizhzhia oblasts have a higher rate of employment, these oblasts have a lower average wage. Conversely, Donetsk oblast has a relatively high wage.

National	Donetsk	Zaporizhzhia	Kherson
11	12	10	8
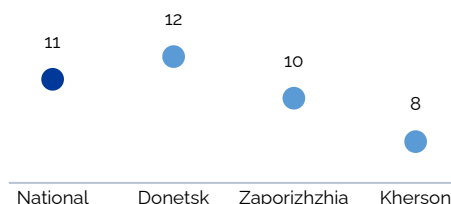
Previous employment of the registered unemployed persons.[63] The largest proportion of registered unemployed were reported to have previously worked as plant and machine operators.

Donetsk oblast: plant/machine operators (18%), officials and managers (16%), services/trade personnel (14%).

Zaporizhzhia oblast: plant/machine operators (22%), services/trade personnel (16%), elementary occupations (15%).

Kherson oblast: plant/machine operators (21%), elementary occupations (16%), services/trade personnel (15%).

Household economy

Average household income, 2019: per month by oblast, in thousand UAH.[65] All ASA oblasts had a lower than average household income.

National	Donetsk	Zaporizhzhia	Kherson
11.1	10.6	9.3	9.2
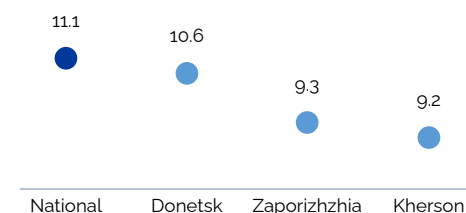
Average bank deposit per household, 2019: by oblast, in thousand UAH.[66] All ASA oblasts had a lower than average level of household saving in the form of bank deposits.

National	Donetsk	Zaporizhzhia	Kherson
39	24	33	22
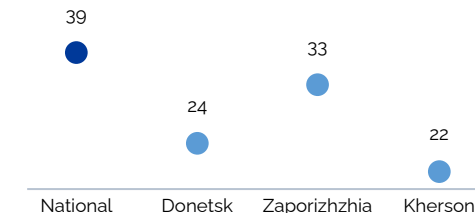
Poverty, 2019: % of the population with income below minimum subsistence (3,661 UAH).[67] Kherson oblast had the highest proportion of households (42%) with an income under the actual minimum subsistence level.

National	23%
Donetsk	19%
Zaporizhzhia	33%
Kherson	42%
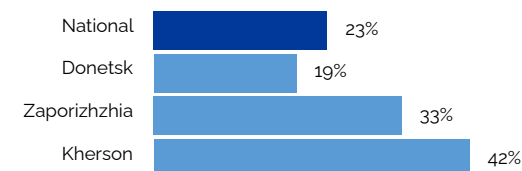
Food insecurity, 2018 / 2019: % households did not have enough money for food by oblast.[68] All ASA oblasts had slightly higher proportion of households reporting to not have enough money for food.

National	12%
Donetsk	13%
Zaporizhzhia	15%
Kherson	13%

Coping mechanisms, 2019: % of households reporting loans from family or friends as income.[69] Kherson had the highest proportion of households (12%) relying on loans from family or friends.

National	7%
Donetsk	4%
Zaporizhzhia	9%
Kherson	12%
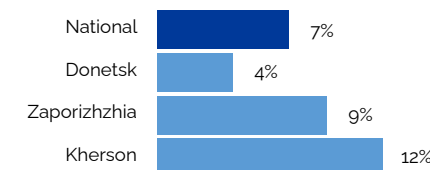
Economic security, 2018/2019: score out of 10.[70] The degree to which one has a stable source of income, capacity to provide for nutritional needs, and can rely on social welfare payments if they needed them was lower in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia in comparison to the national level. Difference between scores more than 0.5 is considered significant,

National:	5.3
Donetsk:	4.9
Zaporizhzhia:	5.0
Kherson:	5.4

Wealth distribution, 2019: % population by per capita income bracket by oblast.[71] In Donetsk oblast close to a quarter of the population have a per capita income (PCI) below 4,000 and a quarter have a PCI of 7,000+ UAH (approximately twice minimum subsistence), which may factor in perception of greater inequity in wealth distribution, suggested by the lower economic security score above.

	Up to 4,000 UAH	4,000 to 7,000 UAH	More than 7,000 UAH
Donetsk	24%	50%	26%
Zaporizhzhia	39%	47%	14%
Kherson	51%	38%	11%
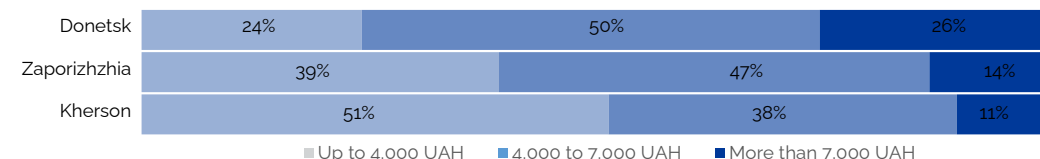
Situation overview and profile of the ASA region in 2018/2019

Social characteristics of the ASA

ASA during 2018/2019 had the following social characteristics:

Demographics

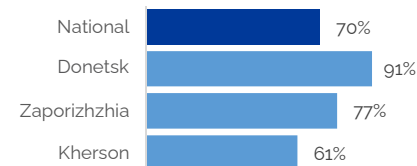According to official figures, the population of Donetsk oblast is approximately 4.1 million. Following the onset of the conflict and division of the oblast into government-controlled and non-government controlled territories, access to data on the population in NGCA ceased. For this reason, statistics in this factsheet (including *per capita* indicators) refer to the official GCA population only (1.9 million).

Changing demographics: key demographic groupings by oblast in 2019.[82] While the proportion of the population aged 15 - 60 was roughly equal for all ASA oblasts, Donetsk had a much higher ratio of pensioners to workers. This may be due to pensioners living in non-government controlled areas, being registered in Donetsk GCA.

|	National	Donetsk	Zaporizhzhia	Kherson
Total, in millions[73]	41.7	4.1	1.7	1.0
Total, GCA adjusted[74]	38.2	1.9	As above	As above
Aged, 15 - 60 years[75]	61%	59%	60%	61%
Ratio of pensioners to workers[76]	7.1	11.5	7.5	6.5

Urbanisation: estimated proportion of urban population, 2019, % of total population per oblast.[ii] In two of the three ASA oblasts, a higher proportion of the population reside in urban areas.

- National 70%
- Donetsk 91%
- Zaporizhzhia 77%
- Kherson 61%

Aging: population over 60 years old by oblast in 2019, % of the population.[72] A higher proportion of the population in Donetsk and Kherson are over 60 years of age. ,

- National 24%
- Donetsk 29%
- Zaporizhzhia 25%
- Kherson 27%

Population decline, 2018 to 2019: decrease per 1,000 inhabitants.[80] All ASA oblasts experienced steeper population decline in comparison to the national average..

- National −1
- Donetsk −18
- Zaporizhzhia −13
- Kherson −9
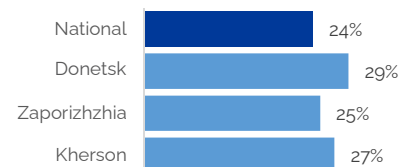
Internally displaced persons (IDP) and conflict participants, 2019: per 10,000 population.[81] ASA is home to a high large number of of internally displaced people (IDP) and conflict participants.

Donetsk: 1,228 IDPs and 83 participants.
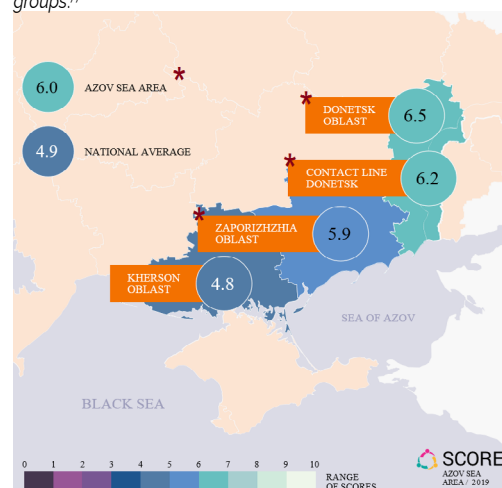
Zaporizhzhia: 330 IDPs and 75 participants.

Kherson: 138 IDPs and 60 participants.
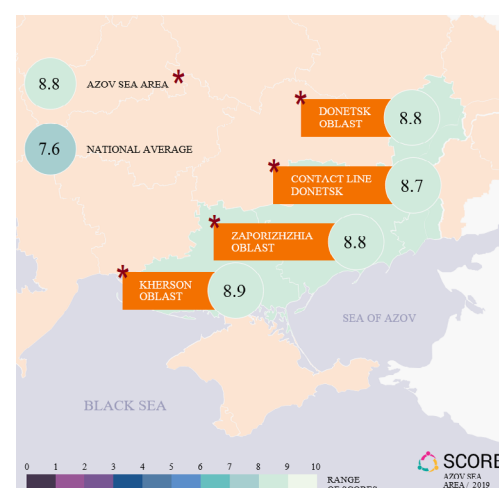
Social behaviour and inter-group relations

The characteristic features of the ASA, observed through the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) index as compared to the national average are:

- Higher social tolerance, particularly in the east of the ASA (Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts).
- Higher family coherence in all oblasts in the area.
- Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk oblasts have a lower frequency of personal contacts with different groups, as compared to the national average.

Social tolerance in 2018 / 2019: *The combined measure of social tolerance towards different minority and marginalized groups.*[77]

Azov Sea Area 6.0 · National Average 4.9 · Donetsk Oblast 6.5 · Contact Line Donetsk 6.2 · Zaporizhzhia Oblast 5.9 · Kherson Oblast 4.8

Family coherence in 2018 / 2019: *Strength of familial ties and relations with family members.*[78]

Azov Sea Area 8.8 · National Average 7.6 · Donetsk Oblast 8.8 · Contact Line Donetsk 8.7 · Zaporizhzhia Oblast 8.8 · Kherson Oblast 8.9

Contacts with different groups in 2018 / 2019: *Frequency of direct contacts with members of various specified social groups.*[79]
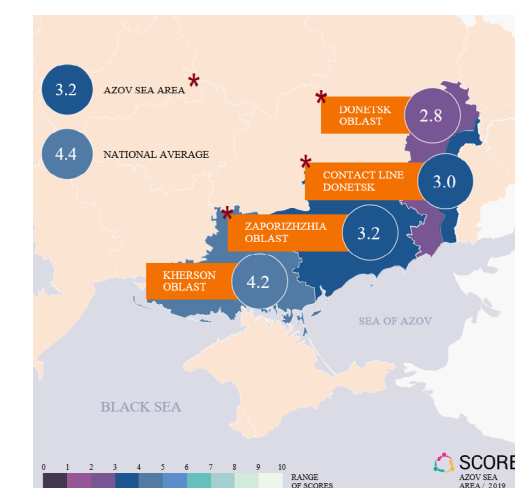
Azov Sea Area 3.2 · National Average 4.4 · Donetsk Oblast 2.8 · Contact Line Donetsk 3.0 · Zaporizhzhia Oblast 3.2 · Kherson Oblast 4.2

NOTE: the SCORE heatmaps are based on a scale running from 0 = the phenomenon is not at all present to 10 = the phenomenon is highly present. *SCORE heatmaps with an asterisk beside the label are considered to be significantly different to the national average. Contact Line refers to the respondents living within 0-15 km zone proximity to the non-Government controlled area (NGCA) of Donetsk oblast.

⬥ Situation overview and profile of the ASA region in 2018/2019

Personal security

Incidence of reported crime, 2019: Reported incidence per 1,000 inhabitants.[91] Kherson had the highest number of reported crime incidence per capita.
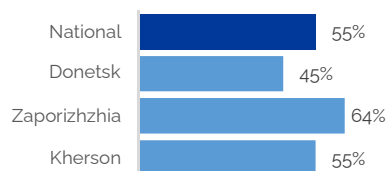
11   6   14   15

National   Donetsk   Zaporizhzhia   Kherson

Perceived personal security, 2018 / 2019: score out of 10.[83]
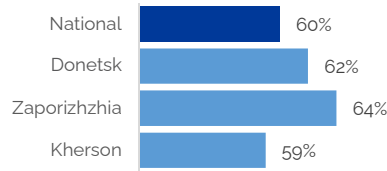*The degree to which one feels safe from violence in daily life and that the police can protect them.* Despite a higher level of reported crime per capita, Kherson also has a higher level of perceived personal security.

4,2   4,1   4,2   5,2 *

National   Donetsk   Zaporizhzhia   Kherson

Political participation and security

Perceived political security, 2018 / 2019: score out of 10.[84]
The degree to which one feels comfortable expressing their political views both collectively and individually without fearing consequences. Kherson had a significantly higher score for feelings of political security.
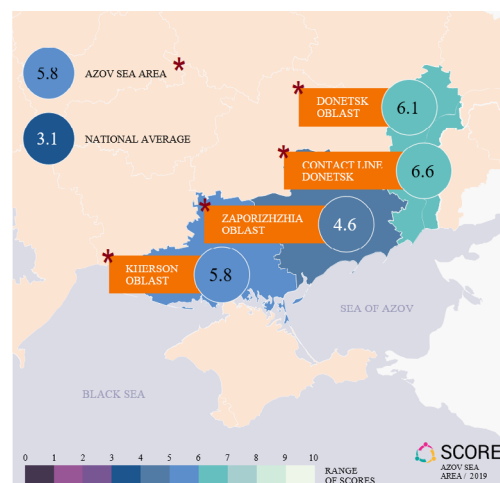
6.7   4.9 *   6.5   7.7 *

National   Donetsk   Zaporizhzhia   Kherson

Perception of safety, 2018 / 2019: % SCORE respondents reporting that they feel unsafe when walking at night, by oblast.[90]

National	55%
Donetsk	45%
Zaporizhzhia	64%
Kherson	55%

Perception of police, 2018 / 2019: % SCORE respondents not confident that police could protect them from violence, by oblast.[92]

National	60%
Donetsk	62%
Zaporizhzhia	64%
Kherson	59%

Number of civil society organisations by oblast, 2019: per 10,000 inhabitants.[85] Kherson had the lowest number of civil society organisations per capita in the ASA.

8   4   7   3
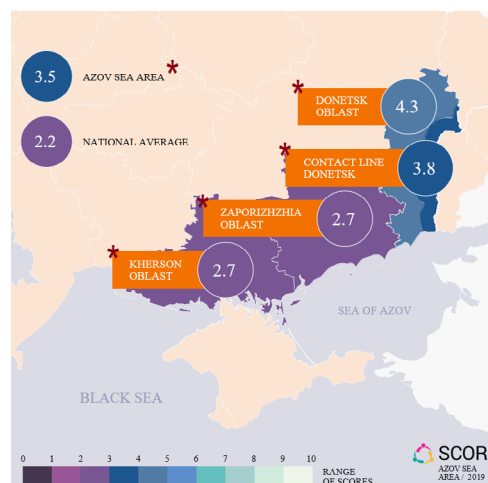
National   Donetsk   Zaporizhzhia   Kherson

Civic behaviour

SCORE findings suggest that, despite low civic optimism and low trust in central authorities, passive citizeship orientation was also prevalent (citizens were not willing to engage in civic and political matters). Lack of civic engagement in the ASA should be further explored from a local political culture perspective. Note: the ASA has traditionally seen lower mass civic activism, particularly in Donetsk and Kherson oblasts, where, as SCORE data show, residents are more unwilling to dedicate personal time and resources to bring about positive change in their communities. Potential lessons can be learned from Zaporizhzhia oblast, where SCORE indicates a higher public willingness to engage in civic initiatives, as well as from the overall increase in the number of NGOs in the area since 2014.[86]
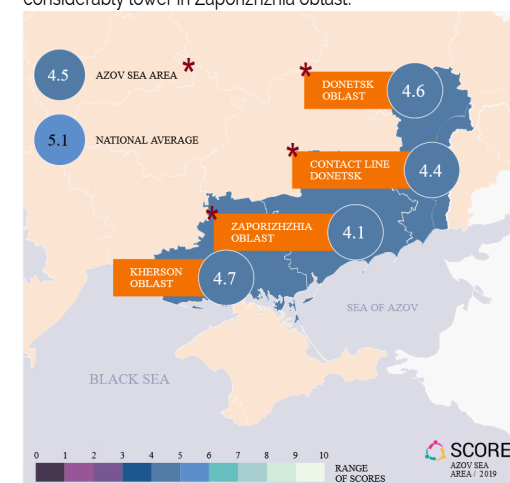
Passive citizen orientation in 2018 / 2019: *The degree to which one is unwilling to engage in civic and political matters.*[87] Higher passive citizenship in all oblasts in the area, more strikingly in Donetsk and Kherson oblasts.

5.8 AZOV SEA AREA *
3.1 NATIONAL AVERAGE
DONETSK OBLAST 6.1
CONTACT LINE DONETSK 6.6
ZAPORIZHZHIA OBLAST 4.6
KHERSON OBLAST 5.8

Trust in central institutions in 2018 / 2019: *The combined level of trust in national institutions.*[88] Trust in central institution was higher in the east of the ASA, although it should be noted that trust of central institutions is low in Ukraine in general.

3.5 AZOV SEA AREA *
2.2 NATIONAL AVERAGE
DONETSK OBLAST 4.3
CONTACT LINE DONETSK 3.8
ZAPORIZHZHIA OBLAST 2.7
KHERSON OBLAST 2.7

Civic optimism in 2018 / 2019: *The degree to which one believes that the present generation is in a better position than the past and the future generation will be in a better position compared to the current one.*[89] Lower civic optimism in all oblasts in the area, considerably lower in Zaporizhzhia oblast.

4.5 AZOV SEA AREA *
5.1 NATIONAL AVERAGE
DONETSK OBLAST 4.6
CONTACT LINE DONETSK 4.4
ZAPORIZHZHIA OBLAST 4.1
KHERSON OBLAST 4.7

NOTE: the SCORE heatmaps are based on a scale running from 0 = the phenomenon is not at all present to 10 = the phenomenon is highly present. * Oblasts in the perceived security charts and SCORE heatmaps with an asterisk beside the label are considered to be significantly different to the national average.

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Endnotes

1   Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD), 'Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Index, 2018/2019. IMPACT, Volnovakha Raion Area-Based Risk Assessment, 2020. IMPACT, AGORA Hromada capacity and vulnerability assessment, 2019/2020. REACH, Multi-Sector Needs Assessment in Government-Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts within 20 km of the Line of Contact, 2020.

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27 IMPACT, AGORA Hromada capacity and vulnerability assessment, 2019/2020. Note, the assessment was of 24 hormada close to the line of contact in Donetsk and Luhansk and was run between November 2019 and May 2020.

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46   Ibid.

47   Ibid

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75   SSSU, 'Statistical Year Book Of Ukraine 2019'

76   Ibid.

79   SCORE Index, 2018/2019.

      NOTE: Various groups include IDPs, ATO/JFO military personnel, people from western Ukraine, people from eastern Ukraine, pro-EU and pro-Russia oriented people, people living in NGCA, Ukrainian nationalists, people who support separation of NGCA.

83   Ibid.

84   SCORE Index, 2018/2019.

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89   Ibid.

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64   SSSU, 'Avarage monthly wages of regular employees by region in 2019', 2019. Accessed: 03/01/2021.

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68   SCORE Index, 2018/2019.

69   SSSU, 'Structure of household total expenditure in 2019 (National, Donetsk oblast, Zaporizhzhia oblast, Kherson oblast)', 2019. Accessed: 03/01/2021

70   SCORE Index, 2018/2019.

71   SSSU, 'Population distribution by average per capita income in 2019 (National, Donetsk oblast, Zaporizhzhia oblast, Kherson oblast)', 2019. Accessed: 03/01/2021

77   SCORE Index, 2018/2019. Each indicator is measured through a range of questions (the responses to each question are added together and converted to a score out of 10). Heatmaps are distribution of an indicator presented on the oblast level and as the national average. It is important to highlight that difference more than 0.5 between scores are considered significant. Some indicators are also presented unpacked into frequencies, representing how many people responded yes or no to a certain question (in %).

      NOTE: Different minority and marginalized groups include immigrants / foreign workers, Muslims, Jews, Russians, Roma, homosexuals and other people with non-traditional sexual orientation, black people, drug addicts. SCORE measures personal interaction and/or acceptance of these groups in the community.

78   SCORE Index, 2018/2019.

80   For Zaporizhzhia and Kherson SSSU, 'Natural population moment', 2019; Donetsk Oblast Statistics Services - 'Natural population moment', 2019. SSSU, 'Migration', 2019. Accessed: 03/01/2021

81   Calculations based on data provided by Ministry of Social Policy on IDPs registered per raion, 2019; SSSU, 'Participants in the conflict', 2019. Accessed: 03/01/2021.

82   SSSU, 'Ukraine in figures', 2019. Accessed: 03/01/2021.

86   An increasing civic engagement is also observed lately in Donetsk oblast (see http://neweurope.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FES_Europ_Donbas_eng_web.pdf, p.16).

88   Ibid.

90   Ibid.

91   Prosecutor Generals Office of Ukraine, The report on criminal offenses in 2019,. Accessed: 03/01/2021.

92   SCORE Index, 2018/2019.