

FactCheck



Irakli Gharibashvili:
“In April wine export was equal to 19 million bottles which has increased by 180% as compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.”



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FactCheck

P rime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili made the following statement at his meeting with the media on 4 June 2014: “In April wine export was equal to 19 million bottles which has increased by 180% as compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.”

FactCheck wondered about the accuracy of the facts stated in the Prime Minister's statement.

According to the information published on the web site of the National Wine Agency of Georgia, wine export to 26 countries in the period of January-April 2014 was equal to 18,965,119 bottles (volume: 0.75 l) which has increased by 180% as compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

According to the data from April 2014, USD 62,173,917 worth of product was exported in terms of monetary unit which is 215% more than the indicator from the corresponding period in 2013.

The top five markets for

Georgian wine export markets are as follows: Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Poland and Latvia. Russia's share of the total export volume is equal to 70.2%. 13,313, 742 bottles (volume: 0.75 l) of Georgian wine were exported to Russia in April 2014.

For further information **FactCheck** searched for the indicator of wine export in 2013. According to the data of the National Wine Agency, 46,747,785 bottles (volume: 0.75 l) of Georgian wine were exported in total in 2013 which is 100 % more than the same indicator from the corresponding period in the previous year.

In terms of monetary unit, USD 141,730,292 worth of wine was exported in 2013 which is 97 % more than the same indicator in the previous year. Russia's share of total wine export was 49% (Georgia has step-by-step resumed wine export to Russia since June 2013 after a seven-year gap).

Previously, **FactCheck** has written about the increase in wine export in the period of January-November 2013.

Category: Agriculture

CONCLUSION

According to the National Wine Agency of Georgia, approximately 19 million (volume: 0.75 l) bottles of Georgian wine were exported as of January-April 2014 which is 180% more than the same indicator in the previous year.

Therefore, Irakli Gharibashvili's statement, “In April wine export was equal to 19 million bottles which has increased by 180% as compared to the corresponding period in previous year,” is **TRUE**.

TRUE



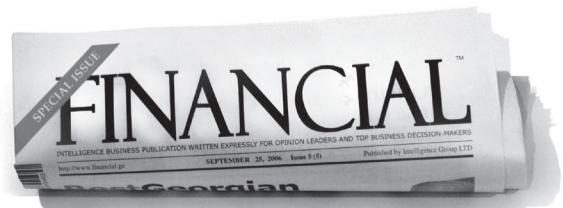
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Taking care of Lassie!

The FINANCIAL

I f an accident occurs, modern safety features such as seat belts, airbags, crumple zones and ABS mean occupants stand a good chance of surviving or escaping with minor injuries. But an unrestrained pet in the car can suddenly become a dangerous projectile – with tragic consequences for the animal and other occupants.

If a car crashes at a speed of 40km/h (25mp/h), an airborne dog can develop projection forces equaling 40 times its weight. For example, a German shepherd weighing 35 kilos (77 pounds) can hit with a force of 1,400 kilos (3087 pounds). The damage this can wreak as it progresses through the cabin and, sometimes, out the front windscreen, can be imagined, according to Allianz SE.

ONE CAR, TWO DOG DUMMIES, ONE WALL

To highlight the dangers, the Allianz Centre for Technology (AZT) recently staged a crash test using dogs. Lifelike dog replicas – let's call them Bobby and Max – were installed in a car at the test facilities near Munich, Germany, and the car then driven against a wall.

Max, the unsecured dog dummy, shot through the interior smashing violently into the dashboard. Bobby, the smaller harnessed dog, remained in place on the backseat.

The AZT says that properly securing your dog improves the chances that all



your loved ones will survive a collision. If the animal is restrained, it will also ensure that your terrified pet won't flee from the accident scene or obstruct any rescue services working to reach you. And with Fido safely strapped away, you can confidently keep your eyes on the road and your hands on the wheel, according to Allianz SE.

PROPERLY SECURING YOUR PET IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

Carsten Reinkemeyer, head of Vehicle Technology and Safety at AZT recommends securing your dog with a harness attached to the seat belt for dogs up till

twelve kilos (26 pounds), like Bobby in the video. Larger dogs should travel in secure travel cages in the rear of your car because harnesses allow for too much forward displacement. As a consequence, a larger dog can smash into the front seat, even when belted with a harness.

LOCKED CAR: SUMMER DANGER FOR PETS

Experts also warn dog or pet owners to never leave their pets in the car in the summer or on very sunny days. The locked vehicle can become a burning oven within minutes, not leaving enough oxygen for the poor pet, according to Allianz SE.

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Twins and short spaced births linked to premature death among parents

The FINANCIAL

M others of twins and parents who have children in quick succession have a greater risk of dying prematurely, new research from LSE shows. The findings, published this month in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, suggest that the accumulated physical, emotional and financial stresses of raising children close in age could have long-term health implications.

Researchers from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and University of Oslo analysed childbirth and mortality risks in Norway over a 30-year period. The results showed that for parents of two or three children, having them less than 18 months apart was associated with higher mortality risks later in life for both men and women.

Compared to parents who had gaps of 2-2.5 years between births, women having children less than 18 months apart had a 13 per cent greater chance of dying in mid-life and early old age; for men the risk is even higher – 17 per cent.

Mothers of twins were 15 per cent more likely to die prematurely, although this risk was mainly for women who had no further children after the twins – possibly a group who found raising twins particularly stressful;

Short intervals between first and second births were associated with greater use of prescription drugs later in life.

Researchers say short term birth intervals



are becoming more common due to the trend towards delaying parenthood and also increased use of fertility treatments, according to LSE.

According to Professor Emily Grundy from LSE's Department of Social Policy, the results show that the stresses of closely spaced, frequent births may have longer term implications for parents' health.

“This is potentially an important public health issue as closely spaced and multiple births are becoming more common. We need to do more research to find out underlying mechanisms and see if they are really causal,” Grundy

added.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends waiting at least two years from a birth until the next pregnancy.

Previous studies have shown a link between multiple births and high rates of both postnatal depression and divorce.

Professor Grundy says other populations could be expected to show even greater stresses on parents, with more adverse health impacts than Norway, where parental provisions and support services for families are very generous, according to LSE.

Pump Prices Fall But EU Considers Fuel Price Regulation



The FINANCIAL

However, the European Commission has indicated that it will promote fuel price regulation, having been wowed by Austria's up to 3.6% cut in petrol prices and up to 2.5% reduction in diesel prices since introducing regulation in 2011.

UK petrol pump prices average 131.61p a litre this mid July, down from 131.70p last week. However, a month ago, they averaged 130.47p.

Diesel forecourt prices have also fallen from 136.37p last week to set a mid-July average of 136.08p. A month ago, they were 135.70p, according to the Automobile Association Developments Limited.

RISE AND FALL

The rise and fall of pump prices reflect oil's quick increase to \$115 a barrel in the third week of June, as Iraq started to disintegrate, and subsequent fall to less than \$105 at the start of this week. Despite knee-jerk predictions of a pump price surge, a stronger pound, less speculator activity in the commodity markets and yet another summer of lower-than-expected fuel demand have limited the increase to a summer blip.

With wholesale petrol back at 45.5p a litre last week, a level which saw pump prices bobble around the 130p-a-litre mark through April and May, this should iron out the summer price wrinkle if sustained, according to the Automobile Association Developments Limited.

OVERBLOWN

UK average diesel pump prices, as reported last month, remain overblown. On paper, the wholesale price of diesel has been at or below the wholesale price of petrol since the beginning of July. Yet, diesel remains 4.5p more expensive at the pump – only slightly down from 5.25p in mid June.

Part of that is due to the fuel supply and retail industry taking a 1p-a-litre hit on petrol, but loading the loss on diesel, according to the Automobile Association Developments Limited.

€11 BILLION PER YEAR LOSS

The European Commission, in this month's "Study on the vehicle fuels market" report, highlighted an €11 billion per year loss to European consumers because of the way they are treated by the road fuel industry. Complaints include pricing, labelling at the pump, inadequate information about fuels, and poor regulatory enforcement, according to the Automobile Association Developments Limited.

Streamlining vehicle fuel price notification systems - The study highlights the approach taken by Austria, where all fuel retailers must notify their price changes with only one price increase per day permitted. This increases price transparency with the study showing a price reduction of 1.5% to 2.5% for diesel fuels and of 3% to 3.6% for petrol since the pricing regulation was introduced in 2011. The Commission plans to actively promote this best practice among Member States in the coming period, as it has been shown to bring significant benefits to the consumers, according to AA.

"Despite the scaremongering on pump price rises earlier this summer, the increase was muted compared to what UK drivers have experienced since 2008. That doesn't mean that commodity market speculation, Middle East oil crises, hurricanes in the Caribbean and other pressures have gone away for good but the fuel price climate has been settled for the moment by slack fuel demand, over-supply and a stronger pound," said Edmund King, the AA's president.

"AA-Populus research found that 55% of UK families, rising to 66% among lower-income, reacted to up to 10% increases in the cost of domestic energy by being careful with the way they used their cars during the winter. This helped to push petrol consumption to its lowest on record in March, after the heavy rains and flooding had ended. Since then, official figures indicate some recovery in petrol consumption although, as lapsed gasoline demand figures in the US show, drivers here and abroad are still very sensitive," he said.

"The European Commission is pushing for greater openness in the pricing of fuel and even regulation to make it happen. After five years of surging, rocket-and-feather and post-code lottery pump pricing, many UK drivers may actually welcome this bit of EU 'nanny' as a way to get a fair price at the pump," he added.

TRACKING FUEL PRICES

The AA provides more than three million of its members with free fuel-price tracking mobile phone apps which allow them to root out competitive retailers. And they and other drivers who go to France this summer can plot pump prices along their holiday route, using an official website – seeing exactly what can be achieved in stimulating transparency and competition, according to AA.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL

Regionally, Northern Ireland sells the most expensive petrol, averaging 132.4p a litre, while drivers in Yorkshire and Humberside enjoy the lowest at 131.2p.

At 136.6p a litre, Scotland's average price of diesel is the dearest in the UK, with Yorkshire and Humberside the cheapest at 135.7p, according to AA.



Irakli Gharibashvili:

"We plan to increase the salaries of rural doctors by 30% from next month as well as the salaries of nurses. We also started building dispensaries and 82 dispensaries will be built by the end of the year"



FactCheck

Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili talked about the news in the health care sector at his meeting with doctors in the Imereti region on 3 May 2014. The Prime Minister stated the following: "We plan to increase the salaries of rural doctors by 30% starting from next month as well as the salaries of nurses. We are planning to construct clinics in the near future as well as rehabilitate clinics in the regions and equip them with modern medical equipment. We also started building dispensaries and 82 dispensaries will be built by the end of the year."

FactCheck took interest in the Prime Minister's statement and verified the accuracy of the facts stated by Gharibashvili.

The Rural Doctors' State Programme aims at increasing the population's geographical access to and financial affordability of primary health care services. Georgia's rural population and people registered at specially-funded facilities are the beneficiaries of the Rural Doctors' State Programme.

Rural-based doctors provide outpatient medical services to the population while also ensuring the provision of necessary medicines and medical goods needed for urgent outpatient services. Services provided by the Rural Doctors' State Programme do not require co-payment by the patient.

Previously, a rural doctor was receiving GEL 500 monthly for providing the above-mentioned services and a nurse was getting GEL 350.

According to the Government of Georgia's Resolution N92 of 15 March 2012, private operator companies (health insurance organisations) were providing rural doctor services. The Government of Georgia's Decree N165 of 7 May 2012 determined the co-financing principle for rural doctor services. The share of the insurance organisations (in their districts of insurance) in the co-financing was equal to 25% in 2012. According to the same Decree, their share in the co-financing should have been 50% in 2013, 75% in 2014 and 100% in 2015.

Later, amendments were made to the funding system. According to the Government of Georgia's Decree N397 of 31 December 2013, the current model of financing has been changed since 1 January 2014 and the Social Services Agency is financing the services provided by the Rural Doctors' State Programme.

According to the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, funding for the services of rural doctors and nurses has increased by 30% since 1 May 2014. Accordingly, the cost for the rural doctor's services is equal to GEL 650 monthly and GEL 455 for nurses. In addition, the Ministry provides rural doctors with medical documentation and a doctor's bag (which includes necessary medications for outpatient services and medical goods) as a one-time issue. Subsequently, rural doctors will purchase the necessary medicines for renewing their inventory at favourable prices.

In most cases, rural doctors are private individuals who are not represented as employees of any kind of dispensary. They have to pay rent and utility bills from their own salaries. According to the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, rural doctors will become employees of dispensaries in the near future. Accordingly, they will thereafter be exempted from paying rent and utility bills.

FactCheck also took interest in the part of the Prime Minister's statement which concerned the infrastructural plans. The construction of dispensaries was determined by the Government of Georgia's ordinance of 26 August 2013. According to the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, 82 dispensaries will be built by the end of the year. At this point, dispensaries have been built and equipped in 19 villages and work in this direction is being implemented in 63 villages.

As the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs explained to FactCheck, the construction/equipment of an emergency medical care clinic is being implemented in the village of Tkviavi. In addition, the construction of a multi-profiled university clinic is planned in the village of Rukhi in the Zugdidi Municipality. At this stage, the project is under development. Improvement of hospital infrastructure and facilities is also planned for those hospitals which were established with 100% state funding.

CONCLUSION

Since 1 May 2014 the funding for rural doctor services has increased by 30%. At this point, the salary of a rural doctor is equal to GEL 650 and GEL 455 for nurses. In addition, the Ministry provides rural doctors with medical documentation and a doctor's bag (which includes necessary medications for outpatient services and medical goods) as a one-time issue. Subsequently, rural doctors will purchase the necessary medicines for renewing their inventory at favourable prices.

At this point, dispensaries have been built and equipped in 19 villages and work in this direction is being implemented in 63 villages. According to the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, 82 dispensaries will be built by the end of the year.

FactCheck concludes that Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili's statement, "We plan to increase the salaries of rural doctors by 30% from next month as well as the salaries of nurses. We also started building dispensaries and 82 dispensaries will be built by the end of the year," is TRUE.

TRUE



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