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PRESS RELEASE

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The Monthly Statistical Bulletin no. 2 has been issued in bilingual version. We present few of the main economic and social indicators whose evolution can be analysed based on the data in the bulletin.

Industrial production achieved in February 2002 has been higher as against previous month, both in absolute volume (+3.8%) and under comparable conditions from the viewpoint of the working days number (+10.8%).

In the first two months of 2002, it has grown by 4.9% in comparison with similar period of 2001.

In **agriculture**, according to the current data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests, on March 25, 2002, the ploughings for spring sowings have been carried out on 92.4% of the programmed area.

According to the data supplied by the National Agency of Employment, at end of February 2002, **the number of unemployed registered** was 1267.2 thousand persons, by 73.8 thousands more than previous month. Women represented 44.0% of total number of unemployed registered.

In February 2002, **unemployment rate registered** was 13.2% in relation to total civil active population.

The bulletin also comprises detailed data on the consumer price index, foreign trade, salary earnings on whose evolution we have informed you in the press releases already sent.