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PRESS RELEASE

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Industrial production achieved in March 2002 has been by 5.6% higher, as compared to previous month, in absolute volume, but lower (-1.1%) under comparable conditions from the viewpoint of the working days number.

In absolute volume, it has grown in all sectors of activity, by 6.1% in manufacturing, by 5.5% in mining and quarrying and by 0.3% in electric and thermal energy, gas and water.

In the first quarter of 2002, industrial production has increased, as against similar period of 2001, both in absolute volume (+3.0%) and under comparable conditions from the viewpoint of the working days number (+4.2%). The growth in absolute volume has been determined by manufacturing (+4.2%), while mining and quarrying and electric and thermal energy, gas and water industry registering falls (-1.2%, respectiv -3.4%). By main industrial groups, this period, the production has increased by 11.3% for current use goods and by 2.8% for capital goods. Falls have been registered for durable goods (-2.1%), intermediate goods (-2.2%) and energy goods (-1.6%).

The value of stocks of finished products in industry, on 31. III. 2002, was ROL 39929 billion current prices, representing 35.6% of March resources, as against 38.2 % registered at end of February 2002.

Total turnover volume¹⁾ of enterprises having industry as their main activity in February 2002 has been, in real terms, by 2.7% lower than in January 2002, being registered a growth of 7.3%, in manufacturing, but falls in mining and quarrying (-17.2%) and in electric and thermal energy, gas and water (-23.0%).

In the first quarter of 2002, **the main resources of primary energy** have amounted to 10605.9 thousand tons equivalent oil²⁾, of which 6762.5 thousand tons equivalent oil²⁾ of domestic production. In comparison with similar period of previous year, the resources of primary energy have registered a slight growth (+0.3%), owing to domestic production (+1.0%), imports falling (-0.8%).

This period, the production of electric energy has accounted for 14710.4 million kWh, falling by 0.3% as against the first quarter of 2001. Electric energy obtained in hydro-power stations has represented 25.8% of total (by 34.2% more than Q I 2001).

In **agriculture**, according to the current data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests on April 25, 2002, the ploughing for spring sowings were performed on 5591.3 thousand hectares, representing 95.5% of programmed area for this period. The same date, the sowings for spring crops were performed on 3266.4 thousand hectares.

The livestock, existent at the end of March 2002, as against the same date of previous year, was by 5.4% lower for sheep and goats, by 3.1% lower for pigs and by 1.3% lower for cattle.

In February 2002, turnover volume of enterprises having **retail trade** as their main activity (excepting motor vehicles, motorcycles and fuels for motor vehicles) as well as repair of personal and household goods, was by 4.5% higher than January 2002, being registered growths both for sales of food goods, beverages and tobacco (+1.8%), but especially for non-food goods (+6.7%).

¹⁾ Total turnover comes both from main activity, and from secondary activities of industrial enterprises.

²⁾ Conventional fuel with calorific power of 10.000 kcal /kg .

In comparison with February 2001, turnover volume of enterprises having retail trade as their main activity has been situated at the same level under comparable conditions.

In February 2002, turnover volume of enterprises having as main activity **sale³⁾, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, retail trade of fuels for motor vehicles** has been situated over the level of previous month (+13.1%), but under the level of February 2001 (-10.5%).

The activity of **market services rendered to the population** pointed out in February 2002 a turnover by 5.6% lower than previous month.

According to the data provided by the National Agency for Employment, at the end of March 2002, **the number of unemployed registered** was 1257.4 thousand persons, by 10.1 thousands less than previous month. In comparison with the same month of 2001, the number of unemployed registered at the agencies for employment is by 264.6 thousand persons higher.

The same date, women represented 44.0% of total number of registered unemployed.

In March 2002, **registered unemployment rate** was 13.0% as against total active civil population (13.2% in February 2002 and 10.3% in March 2001). The same month, women unemployment rate was 11.9% (12.0% in February 2002 and 9.8% in March 2001).

Unemployment was obvious in the following counties: Ialomița (23.1%), Vaslui (21.4%), Buzău (20.4%), Tulcea (19.9%), Neamț (18.7%). The lowest unemployment rates were registered in Bucharest Municipality (4.6%) and in the counties Satu Mare (6.0%) and Bihor (6.4%).

³⁾ Sales of motor vehicles, motorcycles, component parts and accessories comprise both wholesales (including export and import activity of motor vehicles), as well as retail sales according to CANE.