



## PRESS RELEASE

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regarding the main short-term indicators in August 2002

**Industrial production** achieved during 1.I-31.VIII.2002, increased as compared to the similar period of 2001, by 5.0% under comparable conditions from the viewpoint of working days number and by 4.6% in absolute volume. The growth was exclusively determined by the manufacturing, where the growth was 6.6% under comparable conditions and respectively 6.6% in absolute volume, while mining and quarrying, electric and thermal energy, gas and water registered falls (-1.8% under comparable conditions from the view of the working days number and -2.1% in absolute volume, respectively -2.2%, both under comparable conditions and in absolute volume).

By main industrial groups, during the analyzed period, the production increased in absolute volume by 10.3% for durable goods, by 8.6% for current use goods, by 4.2% for intermediate goods and 0.3% for capital goods. A fall was registered for energy production (-0.5%).

As against the similar month of 2001, industrial production achieved in August was by 5.8% higher in absolute volume and by 9.2% under comparable conditions from the working days number.

On 31.VIII.2002, the value of finished products stocks in industry, was ROL 44687 billion current prices, representing 36.0% of August resources (the same weight was also registered at the end of the previous month).

During 1.I-31.VIII.2002, **main resources of primary energy** accounted for 24708.3 thousands tons equivalent petroleum<sup>1)</sup>, of which 16498.0 thousand tons from domestic production. As against the similar period of the previous year, the resources of primary energy registered a fall of 5.0%, because of the fall of imports (-3.9%), especially of oil products (-22.5%). Domestic production also registered a fall (-5.6%).

During the same period, the production of electric energy amounted to 35497.0 million kwh, by 1.6% higher than in the first eight months of 2001. The electric energy obtained in the hydro-power stations represented 29.3% of total production, by 7.5% higher than during the similar period of the last year.

In **agriculture**, according to the current data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests, on September 26, 2002, as against programmed areas, the harvesting was carried out 91.2% for sun flower, 90.2% for autumn potatoes, 38.0% for maize and sorghum, 18.5% for soya.

The livestock, existent at the end of August 2002, as against the same date of the previous year, was higher by 5.9% for sheep and goats, by 5.0% for pigs and by 3.1% for cattle.

During 1.I-31.VII.2002, the turnover volume of enterprises having as main activity **the retail** (excepting motor vehicle, motorcycles and fuels for motor vehicles) and repair of personal and household goods, was by 0.7% over the level registered during the same period of 2001, the growth being determined by the upward evolution of non-food sales (+6.4%).

In July 2002, the turnover volume was by 3.2% higher than in the similar month of the previous year and by 16.8% as against the previous month. The higher turnover as compared to June 2002 was determined by retail sales both for foods, beverages and tobacco (+18.1%), and of non-food goods

<sup>1)</sup> Conventional fuel with calorific power of 10.000 kcal /kg.

(+15.5%).

During the first seven months of this year, the turnover volume of enterprises with main activity **the sale<sup>2)</sup>, maintenace and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, retail of fuels for motor vehicles** was 90.0% as against the similar period of the previous year, because of lower turnover volume obtained from sale of fuels for motor vehicles, the turnover of sale, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles being higher.

In July 2002, the turnover volume for this activity was by 7.4% over the level of previous month.

During January 1-July 31, 2002, the activity of **market services rendered to the population** pointed out a turnover by 12.0% lower than during the similar period of the previous year, the only growth being registered in the activity of travel agencies and tourism assistance (+13.5%).

In July 2002, the turnover was by 21.1% higher than obtained in June this year.

According to the data supplied by the National Agency for Employment, at the end of August 2002, **the number of registered unemployment** was 815.5 thousands persons, by 51.9 thousands less than in the previous month. In comparison with August 2001, the number of unemployment was by 43.7 thousand persons higher.

Of total number of unemployed registered, women represented 44.6%.

In August 2002, the **registered unemployment rate** was 8.5% in relation to the total active civil population (9.0% in July 2002). In the same month, for women, the unemployment rate was 7.8% (8.3% in July 2002).

Higher unemployment rates were registered in the following counties: Neamț (13.6%), Ialomița (12,7%), Prahova (12,5%), Hunedoara (12,2%), Vâlcea (12,1%). The lowest unemployment rates were registered in the counties Bihor (3,5%), Satu Mare (3,6%) and Bucharest Municipality (3,5%).

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<sup>2)</sup> *Sales of motor vehicles, motorcycles, spare parts and accessories comprise both wholesales (including export and import activity of motor vehicles), as well as retail sales according to the CANE.*