



PRESS RELEASE

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On the main short term indicators in February and during 1.I-28.II.2003

Industrial production achieved during 1.I-28.II.2003 registered an evolution practically almost equal to the same period of 2002 (99.8%), both in absolute volume, and under comparable conditions from the viewpoint of the working days number. In this period, manufacturing registered a growth of 1%.

By main industrial groups, the production increased by 21.5% for durable goods and decreased by 3.5% for energy production (electric, thermal energy, gas and water).

On 28.II.2003, the value of stocks of finished products in industry was ROL 49702 billion current prices, representing 38.9% of February resources.

During 1.I-28.II.2003, **the main resources of primary energy** amounted to 6703.8 thousand tons equivalent oil¹⁾, of which 4169.0 thousand tons equivalent oil¹⁾ from domestic production.

The production of electric energy achieved in the first two months of this year amounted to 10197.0 million kWh, increasing by 0.6% as against the same period of the previous year. Electric energy obtained in hydro-power stations represented 25.2% of total production, increasing by 2.5% as compared to the 1.I-28.II.2002 period.

In **agriculture**, according to the current data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests, on March 24, 2003, the ploughings for spring sowings were carried out on 3891.4 thousand hectares (64.4% of programed area for this period), while the sowings of spring crops on 44.2 thousand hectares.

The gradual fertilisation of autumn stalky cereals was performed on 838.8 thousand hectares (34.1% of the program) with nitrogen and on 384.5 thousand hectares (19.4% of the program) with phosphorus.

The livestock existent at the end of February 2003, in comparison with the same date of the previous year was by 14.4% higher for pigs, by 2.3% higher for sheep and goats and by 1.3% higher for cattle.

In January 2003, turnover volume of enterprises having as main activity **retail** (excepting motor vehicles, motorcycles and fuels for motor vehicles) and **repair of personal and household goods** was by 3.5% over the level registered in January 2002, a higher growth being obtained for sales of non-food goods (+6.9%).

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

In January 2003, turnover volume of enterprises having as main activity **sale²⁾, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, retail of fuels for motor vehicles** was by 12.3 % higher than in the same month of 2002 due to the higher turnover obtained both from the sale, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (+18.3%) and from the sale of fuels for motor vehicles (+7.4%).

In January 2003, the activity of **market services rendered to the population** pointed out a turnover by 7.0% lower than in the same month of the previous year mainly due to the lower tourism activity (-9.4%). Growths were registered for hairdresser and other beautify activities (+13.3%) and for the activity of laundry, cleaning and dyeing textiles and fur (+6.4%).

According to the data provided by the National Agency for Employment, **the number of unemployed registered** at the end of February 2003 was 798.4 thousand persons, by 17 thousands more than in the previous month. In comparison with February 2002, the number of unemployed registered at the agencies for employment was by 469.1 thousands lower.

Of total registered unemployed, women represented 42.6%.

In February 2003, **unemployment rate** was 8.5% in relation with total active civil population (8.3% in January 2003 and 13.5% in February 2002). Women unemployment rate was 7.5% (7.4% in January 2003 and 12.3% in February 2002).

Higher unemployment rates were registered in the counties Vaslui (15.7%), Galați (14.0%), Ialomița (12.7%), Alba (11.6%). The lowest unemployment rates were noticed in the counties Bihor (3.4%), Timiș (4.0%), Satu Mare (4.7%) and Bucharest Municipality (3.0%).

²⁾ Sales of motor vehicles, motorcycles, parts and accessories comprise both wholesales (including export and import activity of motor vehicles) and retail sales according to CANE.