



PRESS RELEASE

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regarding the main short term indicators in March and in the first quarter of 2003

In March 2003, **industrial production** registered a growth, under comparable conditions, of 4.6% as against the previous month (11.5% in absolute volume) and of 3.3% as against March 2002. In comparison with the first quarter of 2002, in this quarter industrial structure improved, in the sense of a sharper growth of manufacturing (+2.2%).

By main industrial groups, in this period, the production increased by 23.5% for durable goods and registered a slight fall for the production of electric, thermal energy, gas and water and for the production of capital goods (-0.9%).

On 31.III.2003, the value of stocks of finished products in industry amounted to ROL 49788 billion current prices, representing 35.5% of March resources.

During 1.I-31.III.2003, **the main resources of primary energy** accounted for 10465.8 thousand tons equivalent oil¹⁾, of which 6469,2 thousand tons equivalent oil¹⁾ from domestic production.

In the first three months of 2003, the production of electric energy amounted to 15331.4 million kWh, increasing by 4.2% as against the same period of the previous year. Electric energy obtained in hydro-power stations represented 25.8% of total production, by 4.0% more than during 1.I-31.III.2002.

In **agriculture**, according to current data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests, on April 24, 2003, the ploughings for spring sowings were carried out on 5305.3 thousand hectares, while crop sowings on 2122.5 thousand hectares.

Gradual fertilisation of autumn stalky cereals was carried out on 1331.7 thousand hectares with nitrogen and on 559.1 thousand hectares with phosphorus.

Livestock, existent at the end of March 2003, as against the same date of the previous year was by 15.5% higher for pigs, by 4.8% higher for sheep and goats and by 1.1% higher for cattle.

During 1.I-28.II.2003, turnover volume of enterprises having as main activity **the retail** (excepting motor vehicles and motorcycles) was by 4.8% over the level registered in the same period of 2002, a higher growth being obtained for the sales of food goods (+6.8%).

During 1.I-28.II.2003, turnover volume of enterprises having as main activity **the sale²⁾, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, retail of fuels for motor vehicles** was by 8.6% higher than in the same period of 2002 mainly due to the higher turnover volume obtained from the sale, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (+17.3%).

In the first two months of 2003, the activity of **market services rendered to the population** registered a turnover by 5.4% lower than in the same period of the previous year because of the falls registered in the activities of hotels and restaurants (-13.1%), hairdresser and other beautifying activities (-12.5%) and in the activities of travel agencies (-12.1%). Growths were registered by gambling and other recreative activities (+17.8%) and in the activity of laundry, cleaning and dyeing textiles and fur (+7.3%).

According to the data provided by the National Agency for Employment, **the number of registered unemployed** at the end of March 2003 was 779.2 thousand persons. In comparison with March 2002, the number of unemployed registered at the agencies for employment was by 478.2 thousand persons lower. Of total registered unemployed, women represented 42.3%.

Unemployment rate registered in March 2003 was 8.3 % in relation with total civil active population (8.5% in February 2003 and 13.4% in March 2002). In the same month, for women, unemployment rate was 7.3% (7.5% in February 2003 and 12.2% in March 2002).

Higher unemployment rates were registered in the counties: Vaslui (15.1 %), Galați (14.7%), Ialomița (11.8%). The lowest unemployment rates were noticed in the counties Bihor (3.1%), Timiș (3.9%), Satu Mare (4.6%) and Bucharest Municipality (3.0%).

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

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