

PRESS RELEASE

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regarding the main short term indicators in the first semester and during I.I.-31.VII. 2003

Gross domestic product estimated for 1.I-30.VI.2003 period was ROL 737360.1 billion current prices, increasing – in real terms – by 4.3% as compared to the same period of the previous year. By resources, the growth was determined by the higher volume of activity and, consequently, of the gross value added in industry (+3.6%), construction (+6.4%) and services (+4.0%), whose contribution in the gross domestic product was 83.9%. In agriculture, forestry and fish breeding, the gross value added registered a fall of 0.6%.

From the viewpoint of using the gross domestic product, total final consumption registered a growth of 5.0% during 1.I-30.VI.2003 as against the same period of 2002; final effective consumption of population households increased by 5.4 percentages, final effective consumption of general government registered a growth of 0.3 percentages.

Gross fixed capital formation registered a growth of 7.8 percentages, investment rate determined by its ratio to the gross value added per economy being of 22.4% (21.2% in the same period of 2002).

In the first six months of 2003, net export was ROL –56228.6 billion, increasing as against the same period of 2002, as a result of higher growth of the volume of imports of goods and services (+13.1%) in comparison with the volume of exports of goods and services (+11.3%).

In the second quarter of 2003, as against the same quarter of the previous year, gross domestic product was by 4.2% higher, the branches of industry, construction and services having an important contribution to gross domestic product (81.9%). In agriculture, forestry and fish breeding, gross value added registered a fall of 2.8%. From the viewpoint of uses, it was noticed the growth of final effective consumption of population households by 7.4%, as well as that of gross fixed capital formation by 7.9%.

In the first semester of 2003, turnover volume of enterprises having as their main activity **retail** (excepting trade of motor vehicles and motorcycles) was by 4.3% over the level registered in the first semester of 2002, a higher growth being obtained for sales of non-food goods (+5.8%).

In the first six months of this year, turnover volume of enterprises having as their main activity **wholesale and retail, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, retail of fuels for motor vehicles**, was by 13.4% higher than in the same semester of 2002 mainly due to the higher turnover volume from trade of motor vehicles, motorcycles, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles (+19.4%).

In the first semester of 2003, the activity of **market services rendered to the population** pointed out a turnover by 5.9% higher than in the same period of the previous year, due to the growth registered for gambling and other recreation activities (+17.0%), travel agencies and tour-operators activities; tourism assistance activities (+7.3%) and cleaning, laundry and dyeing textiles and fur (+7.0%).

Investments achieved in the economy in the first semester of 2003 amounted to ROL 82647.1 billion, in real terms by 6.9% higher than in the first semester of 2002.

Investments in new construction works accounted for ROL 34525.9 billion (41.8% of total), increasing by 3.9% in comparison with the same period of the last year. Investments in transport equipment and means amounted to ROL 39398.8 billion (47.7% of total) and were by 13.8% over the level of the first semester of 2002.

Investments in private majority sector represented 65.1% of total, increasing by 13.1% as against the first semester of 2002. They were mainly oriented to the purchasing of transport equipment and means, which represented 55.7% of investments volume.

In the first semester of 2003, the value of **construction works** was ROL 60973.0 billion, increasing by 5.5% as compared to the first semester of 2002; 90.4% of them represented construction works in private majority sector.

By types of works, the highest weight was held by new construction works and capital repairs (74.7%). New construction works (ROL 34525.9 billion) represented 56.6% of total construction works, of which the highest weight was held by engineering construction works and residential buildings (45.1%, respectively 29.4%).

Capital repairs works accounted for ROL 11016.3 billion (18.1% of total construction works) and works for maintenance and current repairs, carried out for existent buildings and construction represented 25.3% of total construction works.

In the first six months of this year, for residential buildings, 11880 **construction permits** were released, of which, those for residential buildings having one dwelling representing 97.6% as against total. According to the projects, residential buildings for which construction permits were released, were provided with 13824 dwellings, having the useful area of 1968.9 thousand sq.m.

In the first semester of 2003, the number of **finished dwellings** was 9691, increasing by 230 dwellings as against the first semester of 2002. 2080 dwellings were built from budgetary subsidies, being registered a growth of 1125 dwellings, in comparison with the first semester of 2002. In this semester, although the number of dwellings finished from the population funds was by 908 lower than in the same semester of 2002, this category still held the highest weight (77.4% of total finished dwellings).

On June 30, 2003 85097 dwellings were under various **execution stages** of construction works, on account of economic units and of the population. 36.8% of them were under an advanced finishing stage, respectively 840 were finished and not received dwellings and 30463 were under finishing stage.

In the second quarter of 2003, **the average number of pensioners** was 6310 thousand persons, by 0.4% lower than in the first quarter of 2003.

Social insurance pensioners represented 99.5% of total pensioners; in this category, as against the first quarter of 2003, the number of state social insurance pensioners remained almost constant (+5 thousand persons) and that of pensioners farmers decreased by 31 thousand persons.

The ratio between the number of pensioners and that of employees was 1.5 pensioners per employee.

Monthly average pension of state social insurance pensioners was ROL 1819703 monthly in the second quarter of 2003, by 3.4% higher than in the first quarter of 2003.

The ratio between the average pension of state social insurance for age limit, full stage of subscription (without tax) and the net average salary earning was 50.9 % in the second quarter of 2003.

In July 2003 as against July 2002, **industrial production** registered a growth of 6.0%, both in absolute volume and under comparable conditions from the viewpoint of the working days number. In comparison with the previous month, industrial production was by 1.9% higher in absolute volume, but decreased by 5.5% under comparable conditions.

During 1.I.-31.VII.2003, industrial production increased by 3.3%, in comparison with the similar period of 2002, both in absolute volume and under comparable conditions. In this period a growth of 4.1% was registered in manufacturing and of 3.7% in energy industry.

On 31.VII.2003, the value of stocks of finished products in industry was ROL 52787 billion current prices, representing 35.5% of July resources.

During 1.I.-31.VII.2003, **the main resources of primary energy** amounted to 22285.9 thousand tons equivalent oil¹⁾, of which 14129.7 thousand tons equivalent oil¹⁾ of domestic production.

Production of electric energy, achieved in the seven months of 2003, amounted to 33546.6 million kWh, increasing by 6.7% as against the same period of 2002. Electric energy obtained in classical thermo-power stations represented 63.7% of total production, increasing by 8.7% as against 1.I.- 31.VII.2002 period.

Livestock, existent at the end of July 2003, in comparison with the same date of 2002 were by 10.3% higher for pigs, by 1.2% higher for sheep and goats and by 0.8% higher for cattle.

According to the data provided by the National Agency for Employment, **the number of unemployed registered** at the end of July 2003 was 650,4 thousands. In comparison with July 2002 the number of unemployed registered at the agencies for employment was by 217 thousand persons lower. Of total registered unemployed, women represented 43.1%.

Unemployment rate registered in July 2003 was 6.9% in relation with total civil active population (7.1% in June 2003 and 9.2% in July 2002). In the same month, women unemployment rate was 6.2% (6.3% in June 2003 and 8.5% in July 2002).

Higher unemployment rates were registered in the following counties: Vaslui (12.2%), Braşov (11.5%), Hunedoara (11.2%), Galaţi (11.1%). The lowest unemployment rates were noticed in the counties: Bihor (2.5%), Satu Mare (2.9%), Timiş (3.5%) and Bucharest Municipality (2.8%).

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