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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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#### **on the main short term indicators in September and during 1.I.-30.IX.2003**

In September 2003, as against September 2002, **industrial production** registered a growth of 3.7% in absolute volume and 0.2% under comparable conditions from the viewpoint of the working days number.

During 1.I.-30.IX.2003, industrial production increased by 3.3% in comparison with the same period of last year, both in absolute volume, and under comparable conditions. In this period, a growth of 4.0% was registered in manufacturing and a growth of 5.3% in electric and thermal energy, gas and hot water production, transport and distribution.

In the first eight months of 2003, total turnover<sup>1)</sup> of enterprises having industry as their main activity was by 5.1% higher, in real terms, in comparison with the same period of the previous year.

On 30.IX.2003, the value of stocks of finished products in industry was ROL 55261 billion current prices, representing 37.8% of September resources, as against 38.6% registered in the previous month.

During 1.I.-30.IX.2003, **the main resources of primary energy** amounted to 27994.6 thousand tons equivalent oil<sup>2)</sup>, of which 18080.4 thousand tons equivalent oil<sup>2)</sup> of domestic production.

In this period, the production of electric energy amounted to 41.7 billion kWh, increasing by 5.4% as against the same period of the previous year. Electric energy obtained in classical thermo-power stations represented 66.2% of total production, by 15.2% more than during 1.I.-30.IX.2002.

In **agriculture**, according to the current data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests, Waters and Environment, on October 27, 2003, the harvesting of the main autumn crops was carried out on 3091.4 thousand hectares for maize and sorghum, on 108.3 thousand hectares for soya and on 18.2 thousand hectares for sugar beet.

Until this same date, the ploughings for autumn sowings were carried out on 2025.6 thousand hectares, while the ploughings for spring sowings on 538.9 thousand hectares.

The livestock existent on September 30, 2003, as against the same date of the previous years, were by 6.1% higher for pigs, by 1.8% higher for sheep and goats and by 0.2% higher for cattle.

<sup>1)</sup>Total turnover comes both from the main activity, and from secondary activities of industrial enterprises.

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

During 1.I-31.VIII.2003, **turnover volume of enterprises having retail as their main activity** (excepting retail of motor vehicles and motorcycles) was by 4.2% over the level registered in the same period of 2002, a higher growth being obtained for sales of non-food goods (+6.6%).

During 1..I.-31.VIII.2003, **turnover volume of enterprises having as their main activity retail and wholesale, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, retail of fuels for motor vehicles** was by 13.7% higher than in the same period of 2002, this level being supported by higher turnover volume obtained from trade with motor vehicles, motorcycles, maintenance and repair of of motor vehicles (+18.8%) and by that obtained from retail of fuels for motor vehicles (+9.5%).

In those eight months of 2003, **the activity of market services rendered to the population** registered a turnover by 3,4% higher than in the same period of the previous year.

According to the data provided by the National Agency for Employment, at the end of September 2003, **the number of registered unemployed** was 608.8 thousand persons. In comparison with September 2002, the number of unemployed registered at the agencies for employment was by 177.4 thousand lower. Of total unemployed, women represented 43.8%.

In September 2003, **unemployment rate** was 6.5% in relation with total civil active population (6.6% in August 2003 and 8.4% in September 2002). In the same month,, women unemployment rate was 5.9%, registering the same level as in the previous month (7.7% in September 2002).

Higher unemployment rates were registered in the following counties: Hunedoara (11.4%), Galați (10.7%), Brașov (10.4%). The lowest unemployment rates were registered in the counties Bihor (2.2%), Satu Mare (2.6%), Timiș (3.4%) and Bucharest Municipality (2.7%).