



PRESS RELEASE

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on the main short term indicators in February and during 1.I-29.II.2004

During 1.I-29.II.2004, in comparison with 1.I-28.II.2003, **industrial production** was by 4.8% higher under comparable conditions from the viewpoint of the working days number, the gross index registered a growth of 3.6%.

In February 2004, industrial production registered a growth of 5.4%, respectively 6.5%.

In January 2004, total turnover¹⁾ of enterprises having industry as their main activity was by 2.9% higher in real terms in comparison with the same month of 2003.

During 1.I-29.II.2004, **the main resources of primary energy** amounted to 7445.7 thousand tons equivalent oil²⁾, of which 4241.8 thousand tons equivalent oil²⁾ from domestic production.

Electric energy production achieved in this period accounted for 10.5 billion kWh, increasing by 2.7% as against the same period of the previous year. Electric energy obtained in classical thermo-power stations represented 70.1% of total production, increasing by 10.9% as against 1.I-28.II.2003 period.

In **agriculture**, according to current data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development, on March 29, 2004, ploughing for spring sowings were carried out on 5441.2 thousand ha (85.5% of planned area).

Phasial fertilization of autumn stalky cereals was carried out on 1385.6 thousand ha (61.6% of program) with nitrogen and on 420.0 thousand ha (25.6% of program) with phosphorus.

Livestock, existent on February 29, 2004, as compared to February 28 2003, was by 5.5% higher for cattle, by 5,1% higher for sheep and goats and decreased by 24.6% for pigs.

In January 2004, turnover volume of enterprises having as main activity **retail trade** (excepting trade with motor vehicles and motorcycles) was by 21.3% over the level registered in January 2003, higher growth being obtained both for sales of non-food goods (+26.5%) and for sales of food goods (+15.0%).

Turnover volume of enterprises having as main activity **wholesale and retail trade, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, retail trade of fuels for motor vehicles** in January 2004 was by 4.2% higher as against the same month of 2003, being supported by higher turnover volume obtained from retail trade of fuels for motor vehicles (+7.3%).

In January 2004, the activity of **market services rendered to the population** registered a turnover

¹⁾ Total turnover comes both from main activity and from secondary activities of industrial enterprises.

²⁾ Conventional fuel with calorific power of 10 000 kcal/kg.

by 28.0% higher as against in the same month of the previous year.

According to the data provided by the National Agency for Employment, at the end of February 2004, **the number of registered unemployed** was 702.4 thousand persons. In comparison with February 2003, the number of unemployed registered at the agencies for employment was by 96 thousands lower. Of total registered unemployed, women represented 41.3%.

Unemployment rate registered in February 2004 was 7.7% in relation with total civil active population (7.6% in January 2004 and 8.8% in February 2003). In the same month, women unemployment rate was 6.7% being situated at the level of the previous month (7.8% in February 2003) and men unemployment rate was 8.7% (8.5% in January 2004 and 9.7% in February 2003).

High unemployment rates were registered in the following counties: Hunedoara (13.4%), Galați (12.1%), Olt (12.0%), Ialomița (11.8%), Caraș Severin (11.7%), Vaslui (11.2%). The lowest unemployment rates were recorded in the counties: Bihor (2.7%), Satu Mare (3.1%), Timiș (3.9%), as well as in Bucharest Municipality (2.8%).