



## PRESS RELEASE

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on the main short term indicators in March and in the first quarter of 2004

In the first quarter of 2004, in comparison with the first quarter of last year, **industrial production** was higher, gross index registering a growth of 5.8% and that calculated under comparable conditions from the viewpoint of the working days number was 4.2%.

In March 2004, as against the same month of 2003, industrial production registered a growth of 9.4%, respectively 2.6%.

Total turnover<sup>1)</sup> of enterprises having industry as their main activity was by 8.3% higher during 1.I-29.II.2004, in real terms, as against the same period of the previous year.

In the first quarter of 2004, **the main resources of primary energy** amounted to 11202.6 thousand tons equivalent oil<sup>2)</sup>, of which 6615.2 thousand tons equivalent oil<sup>2)</sup> of domestic production.

Production of electric energy achieved in this period, accounted for 15.5 billion kWh, increasing by 1.1% as against the same period of the previous year. Electric energy obtained in classical thermo-power stations represented 67.0% of total production, by 5.4% more than in the first quarter of 2003.

In **agriculture**, according to current data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development, on April 29, 2004, sowings of spring crops were performed on 4482.1 thousand ha (70.4% of planned area).

Livestock, existent on March 31, 2004, as compared to March 31, 2003, were higher by 5.0% for cattle, by 2.9% for sheep and goats and decreased by 22.4% for pigs.

During 1.I-29.II.2004, turnover volume of enterprises having as main activity **retail trade** (except trade of motor vehicles and motorcycles) was by 16.9% over the level registered in the same period of 2003, higher growths being obtained both for sales of non-food goods (+18.0%) and for sales of food goods (+15.6%).

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 this period was 10.4% higher than in the same period of 2003, being supported by higher turnover volume obtained in retail trade of fuels for motor vehicles (+16.4%).

In the first two months of 2004, the activity of **market services rendered to the population** pointed a turnover by 39.2% higher than in the same period of the previous year.

According to the data provided by the National Agency for Employment, **number of unemployed registered** at the end of March 2004 was 697.4 thousand persons. In comparison with March 2003, number of unemployed registered at the agencies for employment was by 81.8 thousand persons lower. Of total number of registered unemployed, women represented 40.6%.

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

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

**Unemployment rate** registered in March 2004 was 7.7% in relation to total civil active population, being placed at the level of the previous month (8.6% in March 2003). In the same month, women unemployment rate was 6.5% (6.7% in February 2004 and 7.6% in March 2003) and men unemployment rate was 8.7% (8.7% in February 2004 and 9.5% in March 2003).

Higher unemployment rates were registered in the following counties: Hunedoara (13.5%), Olt (12.4%), Galați (12.2%), Ialomița (11.7%), Caraș Severin (11.6%). The lowest unemployment rates were registered in the counties: Bihor (2.5%), Satu Mare (3.2%) as well as in Bucharest Municipality (2.8%).