



PRESS RELEASE

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on the main short term indicators in April and during 1.I-30.IV.2004

Industrial production achieved during 1.I-30.IV.2004 was higher in comparison with the same period of 2003, gross index registering a growth of 4.7% and that calculated under comparable conditions from the viewpoint of the working days number was of 4.5%.

In April 2004, as against April 2003 industrial production was by 5.2% higher under comparable conditions.

Total turnover¹⁾ of enterprises having industry as their main activity was by 11.2% in the first quarter of 2004, in real terms, in comparison with the same quarter of the previous year.

The main resources of primary energy amounted to 14218.3 thousand tons equivalent oil ²⁾, during 1.I-30.IV.2004, of which 8588.7 thousand tons equivalent oil ²⁾ of domestic production.

Investments achieved in the economy in the first quarter of 2004 accounted for ROL 43039.8 billio, increasing in real terms by 7.2% as compared to the first quarter of 2003.

Investments in new construction works amounted to ROL 16654.2 billion (38.7% of total), increasing by 7.6% as against the first quarter of 2003. Investments in transport equipment and means accounted for ROL 23540.1 billion (54.7% of total) and were by 14.9% over the level of the same period of 2003.

In the first quarter of 2004, the value of **construction works** accounted for ROL 27675.4 billion, by 6.9% more than in the first quarter of 2003. By types of works, in this period there were carried out new construction works amounting to ROL 16654.2 billion and representing 60.2% of total construction works.

Capital repairs works amounted to ROL 3995.8 billion (14.4% of total construction works), while maintenance and current repairs works, carried out for existent buildings and construction represented 25.4%.

In this period, the volume of **new construction orders** accounted for ROL 23321.7 billion, engineering construction representing 63.9% of total orders.

In the first quarter of 2004, 5054 **construction authorizations** for residential buildings were released, of which those for one dwelling residential buildings represented 97.4% as against total. Residential buildings, for which construction authorizations were released, stipulated according to the projects 5871 dwellings of 811.9 thousand sq.m. useful area.

In the first quarter of 2004, the number of **finished dwellings** was 3436. 646 dwellings were carried out from budgetary subsidies. In this period, the number of finished dwellings from population funds was almost equal with that in the first quarter of 2003, this category still holding the highest weight (81.1% of total finished dwellings).

On March 31, 2004 89241 dwellings were in various **execution stages** of construction works, on account of economic units and of the population; of which 36.1% were into an advanced finalisation stage.

In **agriculture**, according to current data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development, on May 27, 2004, sowings of spring crops were carried out on 6095.1 thousand hectares (95.8% of planned area).

Livestocks, existent on April 30, 2004, as against April 30, 2003, were by 4.4% higher for cattle, by 2.8% higher for sheep and goats and decreased by 25.3% for pigs.

¹⁾ Total turnover comes from main activity as well as from secondary activities of industrial enterprises.

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

In the first quarter of 2004, turnover volume of enterprises having as their main activity **retail trade** (except trade with motor vehicles and motorcycles) was by 16.4% over the level registered in the same period of 2003, higher growths being obtained both from sales of non-food goods (+18.0%) and from sales of food goods (+14.4%).

In this period, turnover volume of enterprises having as their main activity **wholesale and retail trade, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, retail trade of fuels for motor vehicles** was by 12.7% higher than in the same period of 2003, being supported by the growth both of turnover volume obtained from retail trade of fuels for motor vehicles (+14.9%), and from trade with motor vehicles (+ 10.3%).

In the first three months of 2004, the activity of **market services rendered to the population** registered a turnover by 28.9% higher than in the same period of the previous year.

In the first quarter of 2004, **average number of pensioners** was 6262 thousands, by 0.4% less than in the fourth quarter of 2003.

Social insurance pensioners represented 99.5% of total pensioners; within this category in comparison with the fourth quarter of 2003, the number of state social insurance pensioners was the same, while the number of farmers pensioners decreased by 25 thousands.

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

In the first quarter of 2004, monthly average pension of state social insurance pensioners was ROL 2172395, by 9.8% more than in the fourth quarter of 2003.

The ratio between average state social insurance pension for age limit, with full due stage (without tax) and net average earning was 52.2% in the first quarter of 2004.

According to the data provided by the National Agency for Employment, **number of unemployed registered** at the end of April 2004 was 661.9 thousands. In comparison with April 2003, number of unemployed registered at the agencies for employment was by 69.5 thousands lower. Of total unemployed registered, women represented 40.9%.

In April 2004, **unemployment rate** was 7.3% in relation to total active civil population (7.7% in the previous month and 8.1% in April 2003). In the same month, women unemployment rate was 6.2% (6.5% in March 2004 and 7.1% in April 2003), while men unemployment rate was 8.3% (8.7% in March 2004 and 8.9% in April 2003).

Higher unemployment rates were registered in the following counties: Hunedoara (13.1%), Galați (12.3%), Olt (12.1%), Vaslui (11.2%), Ialomița (10.9%), Caraș-Severin (10.8%). The lowest unemployment rates were registered in the counties: Bihor (2.2%), Satu Mare (2.9%) as well as in Bucharest Municipality (2.9%).