

## PRESS RELEASE

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regarding the main short term indicators during 1.I-31.III.2005 and in March 2005

During 1.I-31.III.2005, gross index of **manufacturing production** registered a growth of 6.6%, as against the same period of the previous year; per total branch, gross index was 105.3%. In March 2005, in comparison with the same month of 2004, gross index of industrial production increased by 4.0%.

During 1.I-31.III.2005, total turnover<sup>1)</sup> of enterprises having industry as main activity registered, in real terms, an increase of 1.9% as against the same period of the previous year and in March 2005, as compared to March 2004, the increase was 3.5%.

In the first quarter of 2005, **the main resources of primary energy** amounted to 10826.6 thousand tons equivalent oil <sup>2)</sup>, of which 6413.3 thousand tons equivalent oil from domestic production.

In March 2005, in comparison with the same month of 2004, the value of **construction works** increased by 5.5% and by 3.1% in the first quarter of 2005, as against the first quarter of 2004.

In March 2005, 3084 licenses for residential buildings were releases (+20.9 % as against March 2004).

During 1.I-31.III.2005, turnover volume of enterprises having as main activity **retail trade** (except trade of motor vehicles and motorcycles) was by 18.7% over the level registered during 1.I-31.III.2004, higher increases being obtained both for sales of food goods (+24.4%) and for sales of non-food goods (+15,0%).

In March 2005, in comparison with the same month of 2004, turnover from retail trade was by 17.8% higher (+24.5% for food goods and +13.4% for non-food goods).

In the first quarter of 2005, turnover volume of enterprises having as main activity **wholesale and retail trade, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, retail**

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<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.

**trade of fuel for motor vehicles** was by 22.8% higher than in the same quarter of 2004, being supported by the growth both of turnover volume from trade and maintenance of motor vehicles (+27.5%) and of that obtained from retail trade of fuel for motor vehicles (+18.1%).

In comparison with March 2004, turnover obtained from this activity in March 2005 was by 16.3% higher due to the growth of turnover obtained both from trade and maintenance of motor vehicles and from retail trade of fuel for motor vehicles (+14.1%, respectively +18.9%).

During 1.I.-31.II.2005, the activity of **market services rendered to the population** pointed out a turnover by 0.7% higher than in the same period of 2004. In comparison with the same month of the previous year, in March 2005, a growth of 22.7% was registered.

According to the data provided by the National Agency for Employment, **number of unemployed registered** at the end of March 2005 was 537.8 thousands. In comparison with March 2004, the number of unemployed registered at the agencies for employment was by 159.6 thousand persons lower. Of total registered unemployed, women represented 40.0 %.

In March 2005, **unemployment rate** was 6.0% in relation to total civil active population (7.8% in March 2004). Female unemployment rate was 5.1% (6.7% in March 2004) and male unemployemen rate was 6.8% (8.7% in March 2004).

Higher unemployment rates were registered in the following counties: Hunedoara (10.9%), Mehedinți (10.7%), Brașov (9.7%), Galați (9.6%), Covasna and Ialomița (9.1% each). The lowest unemployment rates were registered in the counties: Bihor and Timiș (2.3% each), Arad and Satu Mare ( 3.3% each), as well as in Bucharest Municipality (2.6%).