

**PRESS RELEASE****No. 18 of April 10, 2006**

Regarding the main short term indicators during 1.I.-28.II.2006
and February 2006

Gross index of **industrial production** registered a growth of 3.5% during 1.I.-28.II.2006 as against 1.I.-28.II.2005 period; in manufacturing, gross index was 103.4 %. In February 2006, as compared to February 2005, gross index of industrial production increased by 2.9%.

Total turnover¹⁾ of enterprises having industry as main activity registered during 1.I.-28.II.2006, in real terms, an increase of 9.2% as against 1.I.-28.II.2005 period; in February 2006, as against February 2005, total turnover increased by 10.9%.

Labour productivity in industry was by 7.4% higher during 1.I.-28.II.2006 in comparison with 1.I.-28.II.2005 period.

During 1.I.-28.II.2006, **main resources of primary energy** amounted to 7186.8 thousand tons equivalent oil ²⁾, of which 4302.8 thousand tons equivalent oil from domestic production.

During 1.I.-28.II.2006, value of **construction works** increased by 18.2% as against 1.I.-28.II.2005 period; in February 2006, volume of construction works increased by 16.8% as compared to the same month of last year.

In February 2006, 2070 authorizations for residential buildings were released.

During 1.I.-28.II.2006, turnover volume of enterprises having as main activity **retail trade** (except trade of motor vehicles and motorcycles) was by 26.4% over the level registered during 1.I.-28.II.2005, higher growths being obtained both for sales of food goods, beverages and tobacco (+29.6%) and for sales of non-food goods (+23.8%).

In February 2006, as compared to February 2005, turnover obtained from retail trade was by 27.4% higher (+34.0% for food goods, beverages and tobacco and +22.0% for non-food goods).

Turnover volume of enterprises having as main activity **wholesale and retail trade, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, retail trade of fuel for motor vehicles** registered during 1.I.-28.II.2006 was by 18.2% higher than during 1.I.-28.II.2005, being supported by the growth, both of turnover volume from trade and maintenance of motor vehicles (+18.2%) and of turnover from retail trade of fuel for motor vehicles (+18.1%).

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

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

In comparison with February 2005, turnover obtained from this activity in February 2006 was by 21.3% 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 (+25.7%, respectively +15.7%).

During 1.I.-28.II.2006, the activity of **market services rendered to the population** pointed out a turnover by 1.5% higher than during 1.I.-28.II.2005. In comparison with February 2005, in February 2006, a growth of 9.9% was registered.

According to the data provided by the National Agency for Employment, **number of registered unemployed** at the end of February 2006 was 554.6 thousands. In comparison with February 2006, number of unemployed registered at the agencies for employment was by 3.9 thousand persons lower. Women represented 39.7% of total registered unemployed.

Unemployment rate registered in February 2006 was 6.3% in relation to civil active population, being placed at the level of February 2005. Female unemployment rate was 5.3% (5.4% in February 2005) and male unemployment rate was 7.2% (7.2% in February 2005).

Higher unemployment rates were registered in the following counties: Ialomița (12.3%), Vaslui (11.3%), Gorj (10.6%), Hunedoara (10.4%), Harghita (10.2%) and Mehedinți (10.0%). The lowest unemployment rates were registered in the counties: Ilfov (2.4%), Timiș (2.5 %), Bihor (3.2 %), as well as in Bucharest Municipality (2.6%).