



PRESS RELEASE

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Regarding the main short term indicators in the first quarter of 2006, during 1.I.-30.IV.2006 and in April 2006

Gross Domestic Product estimated for the first quarter of 2006 amounted to RON 61034.7 million current prices, increasing in real terms by 6.9% as against the same quarter of the previous year.

The growth was mostly determined by the increase in the activity volume and consequently, of gross value added in industry (+4.8%), construction (+20.4%) and services ¹⁾ (+6.8%), whose contribution to the gross domestic product was estimated to 84.2%.

It should be underlined that agriculture has a relatively low contribution to the gross domestic product formation (2.7% in GDP in the first quarter of 2006), the animal production prevailing.

Gross Domestic Product by category of resources

	Outputs in the first quarter of 2006 - million RON current prices -	In % as against the first quarter of 2005
Agriculture, forestry and fishery	1686.5	94.7
Industry	16237.9	104.8
Construction	2442.2	120.4
Services ¹⁾	32693.7	106.8
Gross value added – total	53060.3	106.3
Net taxes on product ²⁾	7974.4	111.7
Gross Domestic Product	61034.7	106.9

Final actual consumption registered a growth of 10.2% in the first quarter of 2006 as against the same quarter of the previous quarter. The growth of final actual individual consumption of population households (by 10.9%) was especially determined by the increase in retail sales of goods (+20.4%).

¹⁾ Comprises the activity of trade, transport, post and telecommunications, tourism, hotels and restaurants, general government and defence, education, health and other services for economic units and population.

²⁾ Represents the difference between taxes on products cashed (VAT, excise duties, other taxes on product) and subsidies on product paid from public consolidated budget.

Gross fixed capital formation (GfCF) registered a growth of 11.4%, investment rate determined by its ratio to gross value added in the economy being 18.0%. Within GFCF, investments represent 88.8% of total value.

Current account deficit increased in the first quarter of 2006 as against the same quarter of the previous year as a result of more accentuated growth of imports of goods and services(18.7%) as compared to exports of goods and services (+13.0%), this having a negative impact over GDP dynamics.

Gross Domestic Product by category of uses

	Outputs in the first quarter of 2006 – million RON current prices -	In % as against the first quarter of 2005
Final actual consumption	57601.2	110.2
Final actual individual consumption of population households ³⁾	52173.4	110.9
Final actual collective consumption of general administration ⁴⁾	5427.8	104.3
Gross fixed capital formation	9417.3	-
of which:		
Gross fixed capital formation	9547.8	111.4
Net export of goods and services	-5983.8	-
Export of goods and services	26227.9	113.0
Import of goods and services	32211.7	118.7
Gross Domestic Product	61034.7	106.9

During 1.I.-30.IV.2006, **industrial production** registered a positive evolution as against the same period of the previous year, gross index being 103.5% per total industry and 103.7% at level of manufacturing. In April 2006, the index was 100.5% per total industry, as against the same month of the previous year.

Total turnover ⁵⁾ of enterprises having industry as main activity registered during 1.I.-30.IV.2006, in real terms, a growth of 4.3% as against 1.I.-30.IV.2005; in April 2006, as compared to April 2005, total turnover decreased by 1.5%.

Labour productivity in industry registered a growth of 7.5% during 1.I.-30.IV.2006 in comparison with 1.I.-30.IV.2005 period.

Main resources of primary energy, during 1.I.-30.IV.2006, amounted to 14202.0 thou tons equivalent oil ⁶⁾, of which 8501.3 thou tons equivalent oil from domestic production.

³⁾ Comprises: expenditure of population households for purchasing goods and services to satisfy their members' needs, expenditure for individual consumption of general government (education, health, culture, sport recreation activities etc), and expenditure for individual consumption of non-lucrative institutions in the households' service.

⁴⁾ Comprises expenditure for collective consumption of general government (general public services, national defence, public order, research-development, etc).

⁵⁾ Total turnover comes from main activity and from secondary activities of industrial type enterprises.

⁶⁾ Conventional fuel with calorific power of 10 000 kcal/kg.

Investments achieved in the economy in the first quarter of 2006 amounted to RON 6090.9 million, increasing in real term by 10.9% as against the first quarter of 2005.

Value of **construction works** in the first quarter of 2006 was RON 4358.3 million, increasing by 20.7% as against the same period of the previous year. New construction works amounting to RON 2587.2 million represented 59.3% of total construction.

Capital repairs works accounted for RON 560.7 million (12.9% of total construction works), while maintenance and current repairs works, carried out in existent buildings and construction represented 27.8%.

Value of construction works increased, in April 2006 by 9.8% as against the same month of 2005.

In the first quarter of 2006, 6980 **construction permits** were released for residential buildings, of which, those for one dwelling residential buildings represented 97.9% as against total. Residential buildings, for which construction permits were released, have, according to the projects, 9344 dwellings, of 1396.7 thousand square meters useful area.

In April 2006, 3144 permits for residential buildings were released.

Number of **finished dwellings** in the first quarter of 2006 was 4924, increasing by 763 as against the same quarter of 2005. Out of budgetary funds, 216 dwellings were carried out. Number of dwellings finished from population funds in this period was by 991 dwellings higher than in the first quarter of 2005, this category further holding the highest weight (90.3% of total finished dwellings).

On March 31, 2006 89560 dwellings were under various execution stages of construction works,; 40.0% of them were under advanced finalization stage.

During 1.I.-30.IV.2006, turnover volume of enterprises having as main activity **retail trade** (except trade of motor vehicles and motorcycles) was by 22.6% over the level registered during 1.I.-30.IV.2005, higher growths being obtained for sales of food goods, beverages and tobacco (+31.0%).

In April 2006, in comparison with April 2005, turnover obtained from retail trade was by 16.0% higher (+24.8% for food goods, beverages and tobacco and +8.9% 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.-30.IV.2006 was by 13.3% higher than during 1.I.-30.IV.2005.

In comparison with April 2005, turnover obtained in this activity in April 2006 was by 8.1% higher, because of higher turnover obtained both, from trade and maintenance of motor vehicles, and from retail trade of fuel for motor vehicles (+10.4%, respectively +5.3%).

During 1.I.-30.IV.2006, **market services rendered to the population** pointed out a turnover by 0.4% lower than during 1.I.-30.IV.2005. In relation to April 2005, in April 2006 a decrease of 1.0% was registered.

Average number of pensioners in the first quarter of 2006 was 5828 thou persons, decreasing by 77 thou persons as against the fourth quarter of 2005.

Social insurance pensioners represented 99.6% of total pensioners; in this category, as compared to the fourth quarter of 2005, number of state social insurance pensioners increased by one thousand persons, while that of farmers pensioners decreased by 80 thou persons.

Monthly average pension of state social insurance pensioners in the first quarter of 2006 was RON 302 lei, increasing by 9.0 % as against the fourth quarter of 2005.

Ratio between average state social insurance pension for age limit with full contribution stage (without tax) and net average earning in the first quarter of 2006 was 51.3%.

According to the date provided by the National Agency for Employment, **number of unemployed registered** at the end of April 2006 was 517.3 thou persons. In comparison with April 2005, number of unemployed registered at the agencies for employment was by 6 thousands higher. Out of total registered unemployed, women represented 39.4 %.

Unemployment rate registered in April 2006 was 5.9% in relation to total civil active population (5.8% in April 2005). Female unemployment rate was by 1.8 percentage points lower than male unemployment rate (4.9% as against 6.7%).

Higher unemployment rates were registered in the counties: Vaslui (11.1%), Gorj (10.4%), Mehedinți (10.1%), Harghita (9.9%), Ialomița (9.3%). The lowest unemployment rates were registered in the counties: Ilfov and Timiș (each 2.3% each), Bihor (3.2%), as well as in Bucharest Municipality (2.6%).

Rate of vacant jobs in the first quarter of 2006 (mid month of the quarter) was 1.91%, increasing as against the fourth quarter of 2005 (1.33%) and as against the same period of 2005 (1.84%).