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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**regarding the main short term indicators in August 2006  
and during 1.I. – 31.VIII.2006**

As it was expected, the evolution of economic indicators in August 2006 as compared to July 2006, points out a slight decrease, especially because of this month prevalent holidays in the productive sectors of the economy.

However, it should be mentioned that the levels of growth rates during 1.I – 31.VIII.2006, still register an upward trend as against the same period of 2005, being characterized by a continuous climate of strengthening the stability of the main economic indicators, being more accentuated in the activities of construction, retail trade, services as well as in industry.

To all these, it should be also mentioned the favourable conditions generated by the inflation rate level, of the earning evolution as well as of the relatively low unemployment rate.

It should be also pointed out that imports of goods still register a higher rate as against exports, resulting in the growth of commercial deficit.

**A. Results registered for the main economic indicators,  
In August and cumulated during 1.01. – 31.08.2006**

- %

	August 2006 as against:		1.I-31.VIII.2006 as against 1.I-31.VIII.2005
	July 2006	August 2005	
<b>Industrial production – total (unadjusted series)</b>	<b>99.3</b>	<b>106.7</b>	<b>107.2</b>
<b>- of which:</b>			
Mining and quarrying	99.0	100.3	104.0
Manufacturing	99.1	107.0	107.7
Electric and thermal energy	102.4	114.2	106.3
<b>Labour productivity in industry</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>110.0</b>	<b>111.1</b>
<b>Turnover - industry – total</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>105.2</b>	<b>105.7</b>
<b>Construction works</b>	<b>105.5</b>	<b>119.8</b>	<b>117.3</b>
<b>Turnover - retail trade<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>108.4</b>	<b>122.7</b>	<b>125.4</b>
<b>Turnover – trade with motor vehicles<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>105.3</b>	<b>125.7</b>	<b>119.9</b>
<b>Exports FOB of goods</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>107.4</b>	<b>117.3</b>
<b>Imports CIF of goods</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>124.0</b>	<b>125.2</b>
<b>Commercial deficit</b>	<b>109.1</b>	<b>160.9</b>	<b>144.7</b>
<b>Turnover – market services for the population</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>105.5</b>

**In August as against July 2006, value of industrial production registered a decrease per total by 0.7%, especially due to the decrease of manufacturing production by almost 1%.**

Regarding the evolution by broad industrial groups, the decrease of production per total was determined by the production decrease by 12.7% in capital goods industry; here is to be noted the reduction of production by almost 30% (-29.6%) of road transport means.

Decreases between 9% and 6% were also registered for the divisions: pulp and paper (-8.4%), clothing (-7.1%), wood processing (-6.8%), machinery and equipment (-6.3%) and others in manufacturing, as well as metalliferous ores extraction and preparation (-6.7%) and hydrocarbons extraction and related services (-6.4%), mining and quarrying. Industrial units pointed out as main cause of lower

<sup>1</sup> Except trade with motor vehicles and motorcycles.

<sup>2</sup> Comprise : wholesale and retail trade, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, retail trade of fuel for motor vehicles.

production, the fact that August month was chosen by most of the staff as holidays month, which determined in some cases, ceasing the production during the whole month or during a certain period of production activity. For instance, in the branch of road transport means, 133 man/hrs were worked in average in August, by 11 man/hrs less than in July and in the branch of clothing, by 8 man/hrs less than in the previous month (156 man/hrs as against 164 man/hrs).

August growths as compared to July 2006 for several industrial divisions, such as: furniture and other industrial activities (+14.2%), transport means not included in road ones (+13.4%), medical, optical and watch making apparatus and instruments (+12.8%), construction materials and other products of non-metallic minerals (+8.5%), wood products (+8.4%), chemical substances and products (+6.8%) did not compensate the production decreases for the divisions mentioned above.

Although August industrial production registered a slight decrease as against July 2006, it is higher than in August 2005 by 6.7%, this growth being sufficient, not only to assure **the same growth rate during 1.01 – 31.08.2006 as against the same period of the previous year (107.1%), but to allow even a slight advance of 0.1% during 1.01-31.08.2006.**

**Main resources of primary energy** amounted in the first 8 months of 2006 to 28.1 million tons equivalent oil, increasing by 2.4% as against the same period of the previous year, as a result of higher domestic production by 1,0% and of imports by 4.3%. Final consumption of electric energy in the same period was by 2.2% higher than in the same period of 2005 and public lighting and domestic consumption registered growths by 7.1%, respectively 6.4%.

Registering a growth in August as against the same month of the previous year, by almost 20% (19.8%), **construction works** still point out an accentuated rate during the whole period from the beginning of the year, with a certain growth trend (117.3 % in the first eight months, as compared to 116.5% for the seven months).

It should be mentioned that a higher production rate of general average is registered by construction type, for engineering construction (122.7%) and by structure elements, for maintenance works and current repairs (123.3%) and for new construction (117.3%).

In August 2006, in comparison with August 2005, **turnover obtained by enterprises having retail trade as main activity** (except trade with motor vehicles and motorcycles) was by 22.7% higher (+25.4% for food goods, beverages and tobacco and +20.6% for non-food goods).

During 1.I.-31.VIII.2006, turnover volume was by 25.4% over the level registered during 1.I.-31.VIII.2005, higher growths being obtained both for sales of food goods, beverages and tobacco (+29.8%), as well as for non-food goods (+21.8%).

In comparison with August 2005, turnover obtained in August 2006 by the enterprises having as main activity **wholesale and retail trade, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, retail trade of fuel for motor vehicles** was by 25.7% higher, due to the growths registered both in trade and maintenance of motor vehicles (+29.2%), and in retail sale of fuel for motor vehicles (+21.9%).

Turnover volume registered during 1.I.-31.VIII.2006 was by 19.9% higher as against the level of 1.I.-31.VIII.2005 period.

The activity of **market services rendered to the population** registered a turnover decrease in August 2006 as against the same month of the previous year by 1.5%. Nevertheless, during 1.I.-31.VIII.2006, turnover was by 5.5% higher than the level registered in the previous year.

## B. Evolution of some social indicators in August 2006

	M.U.	Achieved	August 2006 in percentages as against :	
			July 2006	August 2005
Number of employees in the economy	thou persons	4615.3	99.95	101.1
Number of registered unemployed	thou persons	446.5	99.9	89.5
Gross nominal average earning	RON	1122	100.0	116.5
Net nominal average earning	RON	841	99.9	114.6
Consumer price index	%	-	99.93	106.0

**Number of employees** was 4615.3 thou persons in August 2006, by 2.1 thou persons less than in July 2006, the highest decreases being registered in agriculture, clothing, machinery and equipment.

According to the data provided by the National Agency for Employment, **number of registered unemployed** at the end of August 2006 was 446.5 thou persons. In comparison with August 2005, number of registered unemployed was by 52.5 thousands lower. Women represented 42.1% of total registered unemployed.

**Unemployment rate** registered in August 2006 was 5.1% in relation to total civil active population, decreasing as against August 2005 (5.7%). Female unemployment rate was by 1.1 percentage points lower than male one (4.5% as compared to 5.6%).

Higher unemployment rates were registered in the counties: Vaslui (9.8%), Mehedinți (8.9%), Gorj (8.8%), Harghita (8.5%), Ialomița (8.5%). The lowest unemployment rates were met in the counties: Timiș (2.0%), Ilfov (2.2%), Bihor (2.5%), Satu Mare (2.9%) as well as in Bucharest Municipality (2.6%).

Real earning index for August 2006 as against the previous month calculated as ratio between net nominal average earning and consumer price index was 100.0%; and 108.1% as against the same month of 2005, respectively 91.1% in comparison with October 1990.