



Main trends in economic and social development of the Republic of Belarus

The **National Statistics Committee of Belarus** reports that in January-December of 2012 as compared to the same period of the previous year Belarus recorded:

- a GDP growth of 1.5 percent
- industrial growth output of 5.7 percent
- growth in real disposable income of population of 20.4 percent

The registered unemployment on December, 2012 was 0.5 percent of the economically active population.

As of January 2013 the foreign trade in goods made 108.2 percent, as compared to the same period of 2011. Exports in goods and services grew by 13.3%

Belarus takes the 54th place (out of 142 countries) in the British independent rating **Legatum Prosperity Index** that is determined by consolidated index of national welfare. Belarus left behind the following CIS members: Russia (66th place), Uzbekistan (64th place), Ukraine (71st place), Moldova (84th place), Tajikistan (86th place), Kyrgyzstan (88th place), Azerbaijan (94th place), Armenia (98th place), Georgia (93rd place) and Romania (60th place).

In 2011 Belarus took the 50th place in the rating. In view of the increased number of countries (from 110 to 142) and the fact that Luxembourg, Malta and Cyprus (newly included) took higher positions, Belarus downgrade is of administrative nature.

The report of the **United Nations Population Fund** (UNFPA) "The State of World Population" (By Choice, not by Chance: Family Planning, Human Rights and Development), in which the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development programme is analyzed,

includes the results of the monitoring of the member-countries activities in implementing the programme.

According to the report Belarus goes ahead of all CIS members and a number of developed countries (Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Hungary, Denmark, Israel, Iceland, Spain, Canada, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, USA, Finland, France, Czech Republic, Switzerland), having one of the lowest maternal mortality rate – 4 per 100 thousand live born.

The document states that Belarus is in the group of 40 countries out of 170 where 100% of obstetrics is carried out by qualified medical staff.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) considers the Republic of Belarus an important producer of major agricultural produce.

The newsletter “Crop Prospects and Food Situation” of December 2012 reports that the aggregate cereal production in the CIS fell, with the exception of Belarus where cereal production increased: the estimated gross yield country rose by 13.3% and amounted to 8.7 million tons. The organization states that the planted to winter cereals is estimated to be 2.8% higher than last year.

According to the market forecasts reflected in the newsletter “Food outlook. Global Market

Analysis” as of November, 2012 FAO marks a number of positive outcomes of Customs Union creation. The deliveries of beef to the Russian Federation are expected to rise because of preferential quota increase as a result of accession to the WTO and new customs agreements with Belarus.



FAO predicts that Belarus will take the 3rd place among world butter exporters according to the results of 2012 (64 thousand tons) behind New Zealand and the EU and will be ahead the USA. The organization identifies Belarus as one of the 6 countries that make 85% of the world market of powdered milk. In

2012 mainly New Zealand, Argentine, Belarus and Uruguay managed to increase trans border deliveries.

In the publication “**Top 10 of Everything – 2012**” with reference to the World Bank Minsk is at the top as the capital with the cleanest air.

