



**ПАСОЛЬСТВА
РЭСПУБЛІКІ БЕЛАРУСЬ
У АЎСТРЫЙСКОЙ
РЭСПУБЛІЦЫ**

Hüttelbergstrasse 6, 1140 Wien
Tel.: + 43 (1) 419 96 30, Fax: + 43 (1) 419 96 30 30
e-mail: mail@byembassy.at
<http://www.austria.belembassy.org>

**BOTSCHAFT
DER REPUBLIK BELARUS
IN DER REPUBLIK
ÖSTERREICH**

Hüttelbergstrasse 6, 1140 Wien
Tel.: + 43 (1) 419 96 30, Fax: + 43 (1) 419 96 30 30
e-mail: mail@byembassy.at
<http://www.austria.belembassy.org>

PRESS-RELEASE

Main trends in economic and social development of the Republic of Belarus in January, 2013

In January, 2013 the development of Belarusian economy was characterized by the following **quantitative and qualitative parameters**.

Gross Domestic Product growth was at 103.1 percent compared to same period of the previous year.

Industrial output growth was at 100.4 percent.

The highest growth rates were registered in the output of transport facilities (119.6 percent), electric equipment (109.6 percent), food products (109.3 percent), rubber and plastics products (106.9 percent), pharmaceutical products (104.9 percent), pulp and paper products (103.6 percent), metallurgy (103.3 percent).

The share of **innovative products** in the total volume of production was 20.1 percent.

The **agricultural output** growth was at 103,9 percent.

At the same time, there is a 9.7 percent reduction in **fixed assets investments**.

Financial indicators demonstrate growth of revenues from sales of products and services at 16 percent, profitability of sales in industry at 7.1 percent and agriculture at 12.2 percent.

Situation **in the social sphere** remains stable, the unemployment rate at the end of January 2013 amounted to 0.6 percent of the economically active population.

A 21.5 percent growth of **real incomes of population** (the target was at 106.5 percent) contributed to the growth of **retail trade** sales through all distribution channels (120.3 percent).

Despite a **decrease of the exports of goods and services** (87 percent compared to January 2012) the **balance in goods and services** (by balance of payments methodology) was positive with surplus of \$ 146.2 million.

The trade balance as a percentage of GDP was at 3.0 percent as compared to the forecast of 0.7 percent.

Foreign Direct Investments have been attracted in the clear amount of \$ 0.2 billion.

As of the end of January 2013 **foreign exchange reserves and gold** (by the IMF methodology) have been kept at the equivalent of \$ 8 billion (same amount as at the end of December 2012).

The **consolidated budget** during January 2013 has been executed with the surplus of BYR 2.1 trillion or 5 percent of GDP.

Owing to balanced macroeconomic, monetary and fiscal policies, **the exchange rate of the Belarusian ruble has been kept relatively stable.**

During **January 2013** the exchange rate of Belarusian ruble has consolidated towards Russian ruble at 3.8 percent, to Euro at 2 percent & to US Dollar at 0.7 percent.

Stability in the monetary sphere, in its turn, allowed to pursue the policy of gradual **reduction of the refinance rate** down to 28.5 percent (active from March 13, 2013).

As a result of efforts taken, the **growth rate of consumer goods prices** have grown very slight at 3 percent.

Thus the economic growth in January 2013 has been achieved on the background of improvement of macroeconomic parameters, external and internal balances and achievement of positive balance of foreign trade.