

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

In January-September, 2013 Belarusian economy grew 1.1 percent compared to January-September, 2012.

The highest growth rates were registered in the output of pharmaceutical products (112.9 percent), electric equipment (111.2 percent), wood products (108.3 percent), rubber and plastics products (106.2 percent), food products (102.8 percent), leather, leather goods and footwear (102.1 percent).

The share of **innovative products** in the total volume of production was 18 percent.

Fixed capital investments increased at 9.3%.

Financial indicators demonstrate growth of revenues from sales of products and services at 10.1 percent, profitability of sales in industry grew at 7.9 percent.

Situation **in the social sphere** remains stable; the unemployment rate at the end of September 2013 amounted 0.5 percent of the economically active population.

A 18.1 percent growth of **real incomes of population** contributed to the growth of **retail trade sales** through all distribution channels by 18.6 percent, sales of consumer services at 9.3 percent, the **consumer price index** during January-September 2013 compared to December, 2012 amounted 110 percent.

Despite a decrease of the exports of goods, the export of services grew at high rate of 116.1 percent, including growth of construction (by 2.4 times), computer (142.1 percent), business (116.8 percent), transport (107.3 percent) services.

Foreign Direct Investments in the first nine months of 2013 have been attracted in the clear amount of \$ 1.8 billion which is 1.6 times more compared to January-September 2012.

In January-September 2013 **foreign exchange reserves and gold** (by the IMF methodology) amounted to the equivalent of \$ 7.4 billion.

Stability in the monetary sphere allowed to **reduce the refinance rate** from 30 percent in December 2012 down to 23.5 percent (active from June 10, 2013) as well as to keep the **exchange rate of the Belarusian ruble to Russian ruble** at the same level as in December 2012. At the same time the exchange rate of the Belarusian ruble softened within acceptable limits towards US Dollar (at 7.7 percent) and Euro (at 9.8 percent).