

BELARUS IN INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS AND DOMESTIC STATISTICS



Facts and figures as of January 2014

The National Statistics Committee reports that in January - December 2013 as compared to the same period of the previous year Belarus recorded:

- a GDP growth of 0.9 percent;
- a 7.4 percent increase in the capital investments;
- growth in real disposable income of population of 16.1 percent and real wages of 17.0 percent.

The registered unemployment as of the end of December 2013 was 0.5 percent of the economically active population.

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

The review published on November 1, 2013 by FAO reports that following the results of 2013 Belarus is ranked among the leaders in the pork and beef meat market. In this context, FAO predicts increase in Belarusian meat products exports to the foreign markets.

According to the above mentioned review, Belarus is predicted to take the 3rd place in the world as the producer of butter (75 thousand tons), only behind New Zealand (451 thousand tons) and the EU (125 thousand tons), and the 6th place as the producer of cheese (140 thousand tons).

Against the decrease in dairy products exports from New Zealand, Australia and EU FAO specialists predict increase in the deliveries of this kind of products from Belarus.

Belarus maintains the leading position among CIS countries according to the independent **British ranking Legatum Prosperity Index**. In the 2013 ranking the country occupies the 58th place (out of 142 countries) in the ranking of the most prosperous countries which is determined by the index of national welfare and is ahead of Russia (61st place), Uzbekistan (63rd place), Ukraine (64th place), Kyrgyzstan (80th place), Azerbaijan (81st place), Moldova (89th place), Tajikistan (94th place), Armenia (95th place) and Georgia (84th place).

Belarus occupied more favourable position in the world ranking, according to the number of the prematurely born babies. The prematurely born babies in the country make up 4.1% of the total amount of the born babies with the lowest index out of 185 countries. The results of the research carried out by 50 experts from 35 universities and scientific organizations of the USA, Great Britain and other countries, were published on November 14, 2013 in the authoritative **American magazine “Pediatric Research”**.

Preterm delivery (less than 37 weeks gestation) is considered by the researchers to be a global problem that leads to the higher level of disease incidence, disability and neonatal mortality.

Sweden occupied 175th place (5.9%), Ukraine – 164th (6,5%), Russia – 156th (7%), Great Britain – 135th (7.8%), Kazakhstan – 115th (8.8%), Germany – 107th (9.2%), the USA – 55th (12%).

At the beginning of 2014 **American non-government organization Nuclear Threat Initiative published “Nuclear Materials Security Index 2014”**. Belarus occupied the 9th place and is ahead of all former USSR countries. As a result, Belarus improved its position if compared to 2012 by 7 points.

International Telecommunication Union in Geneva presented the report “Measuring the Information Society 2013.”

The Republic of Belarus takes quite high positions in the ratings given by the Report. According to Information Communication Technologies Development Index as for 2012, our country takes the 41th place out of 157 (Republic of Korea takes the 1st place) and is ahead of all CIS countries except Russia (Russia takes 40th, Moldova – 62nd, Ukraine – 68th).

