

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA FOR 2006

- ***Demographic situation***

By January 1, 2007 the indicator of permanent population in Armenian Republic due to current stocks has made up 3222.9 thousand people, at the same time city population 2065.9 thousand people and rural ones – 1157.0 thousand people. By January 1, 2007 the indicator of permanent population in RA has grown by 3.7 thousand people in comparison with the beginning of the year 2006, and by 7.1 thousand people compared with January 1, 2005 so providing 0.1% of yearly increase. By the way, 77% of growth is recorded in rural population contingent.

In 2006, the permanent population increase appeared to be due to natural growth of population, which in comparison with 2005 decreased in 6.3%, but migration residue's negative indicator decreased in 10.1%.

- ***Gross Domestic Product Indicator (GDP)***

GDP production volume at current prices comprised 2657130.7 mln. drams for 2006, and growth rate in comparison with 2005 comprised 113.3%, for 2005 113.9% correspondent indicator. In 2006 GDP comprised 824940 drams (1983 dollars or 1583 euros) per capita.

- ***Industry***

For 2006 industrial products amounting to 644862.5 mln. drams at current prices were produced in the republic, products amounting to 658366.4 mln drams were realized, in addition in the CIS countries correspondingly 57170.0 mln. drams, and in other countries – 174140.0 mln. drams. Volume index of industrial production in comparison with 2005 comprised 99.1%.

Compared with 2005, for 2006 in five regional industrial enterprises ascertained industry production increase in the republic. Thus, in Yerevan city it comprised 2.6%, in Tavush marz of RA – 8.8%, in Syunik marz of RA – 7.6%, in Ararat marz of RA – 7.1% and in Shirak marz of RA – 4.1%. For 2006, 44.6% of industrial output production in the republic shared industrial enterprises in Yerevan.

- ***Agriculture***

Gross agricultural output for 2006, at current prices comprised 555.9 bln. drams that exceeded the level of 2005 by 0.4%. Stock-raising gross output comprised 199683.1 mln. drams exceeding the level of 2005 by 10.4% and plant- growing gross output comprised 356239.2 giving way to level of 2005 by 4.4%.

Gross plant-growing output decrease is stipulated by the volume decrease of grains (46.4%), fruits and berries (9.3%), potatoes (4.4%) and forage crops (20.8%). At the same time increased the volume of vegetables (17.5%), water melons (14.5%) and grape production (22.5%).

In comparison with 2005, for 2006 the production volume of animal husbandry products, excluding egg-production volume, increased too (the volume of realized meat exceeded the level of 2005 by 18.2%, for milk – 4.3%).

- ***Fish Hunting. Fish-Breed***

For 2006, in the republic was realized fish-hunting amounting to 2467.9 mln. drams, that exceeded the level of 2005 by 831.2 mln. drams or 50.8% (at confronting prices).

- **Construction**

- House construction

For 2006, in the republic at the expense of state budget, humanitarian aids, organizations and population resources 891 new residential buildings with total floor space of 385735 sq. m. were put into operation, or 109.2% of the space exploited for 2005.

- Volume of Implemented Construction

For 2006, construction of 643827.8 mln. drams was implemented in the republic, including production units – 264953.4 mln. drams. In the volume of implemented construction the building and assembly jobs comprised 574916.2 mln. drams, including production units – 208456.9 mln. drams.

- Capital Assets Exploitation

For 2006, capital assets of 470879.7 mln. drams were exploited, including on the production units of 157663.6 mln. drams.

- **Transport**

- Goods Transportation

In general use for 2006, the volume of goods transportation increased by 16.6% in the republic in comparison with 2005.

- Passenger Transportation

For 2006 in general use, the volume of passenger transportation by transport means increased by 12.7% compared with the indicator of 2005.

- Goods Turnover

In general for 2006, the volume of goods turnover by transport means in the republic increased by 1.9% compared with 2005.

- Passenger Turnover

For 2006, on the whole, the volume of passenger turnover by means of transport increased by 2.2% compared with 2005.

- **Communication**

For 2006, the volume of total receipts from communication services rendered to population, institutions, organizations comprised 126158.6 mln. drams at current prices (excluding added tax), which compared with 2005 increased by 36.9% at confronting prices.

- **Trade and Other Services**

- Retail trade

For 2006, the total volume of retail trade turnover comprised 820816.7 mln. drams at current prices, which increased by 10.5% at confronting prices in comparison with the indicator of 2005. Predominating part of the total volume of the whole retail trade turnover – 79.8% (655278.7 mln. drams) advanced through stores and consumer goods markets. All marzes of the republic seemed to have the same tendency.

In the republic 86.0% (706078.4 mln. drams) of retail trade turnover is based on retail trade markets of Yerevan city. In 2006 46.5% of retail trade turnover is implemented by shops. 43.6% (382237.1 mln. drams) of shops of the republic are specialized in food trade, 44.3% - in non-food trade and 12.1% - mixed goods trade.

For 2006 compared with 2005 the tendency of retail trade is being kept in Yerevan city. So in 2006 retail trade turnover of Yerevan city in 2.5 times surpassed the middle indicator of the republic. The economic activity of retail trade of other marzes fluctuated in 12,7% up to 34,0% compared with the middle indicator of the republic.

- Services

For 2006, the volume of the rendered services comprised 452541.0 mln. drams at current prices, which increased by 20.7% at confronting prices compared with the same indicator of 2005.

For 2006, 87.1% of the total service volume belonged to Yerevan city, the rest 12.9% (48174.4 mln. drams) to other marzes.

For 2006 the volume of service market of Yerevan city surpassed in 2.5 times the middle indicator of the republic. The economic activity of other marzes fluctuated in 13.6% up to 26.8% compared with the middle indicator of the republic.

- ***Consumer Prices***

For 2006 December 5.2% of increase was ascertained in consumer market of the republic, compared with 2005 December. In 2006 average monthly increase of consumer prices comprised 0.4%, compared with 0.05% decrease of the same indicator of 2005.

- ***Employment***

Average annual number of economically active population for 2006, was 1181.3 ths. people, of which 1092.4 ths. people or 92.5% were employed, and 88.9 ths. people or 7.5% had no stable work, so were registered in the "RA Employment Service" Agency of the Ministry of Social Security of RA and got a status of unemployed.

Population Incomes and Expenses Balance

For 2006, population incomes comprised 1735926.9 mln. drams, and expenses comprised 1664360.0 mln. Drams. The growth rate of which correspondingly comprised 119.2% and 118.3%, compared with 2005.

Real disposal money incomes of the population

Real disposal money incomes of the population (incomes excluding compulsory payments, and taking into consideration the changes of consumer price indexes) increased by 15.4% in 2006 compared with 2005.

- ***Foreign Trade***

The volume of RA foreign trade turnover comprised 1304544.8 mln. drams or 3176.7 mln. dollars at current prices, including export of goods – 404779.0 mln. drams (at FOB prices) or 985.1 mln. dollars and import of goods – 899765.8 mln. drams (at CIF prices) or 2191.6 mln. dollars.

The foreign trade balance is negative by 494986.8 mln. drams (1206.5 mln. dollars), excluding received humanitarian aid freights - by 472985.4 mln. drams (1136.8 mln. dollars). For 2006, foreign trade balance (export and import computed at FOB prices) comprised 1152.9 mln. dollars.