



# Belarus in International Ratings and Domestic Statistics

July 2013

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

- a GDP growth of 1.4 percent;
- a 8.8 percent increase in the capital investments;
- growth in real disposable income of population of 20.6 percent and real wages of 21.5 percent.

As of June 1, 2013 the population of Belarus amounted to 9.459.700 people or 100.01 percent if compared to the same period of the previous year.

The registered unemployment on the end of June 2013 was 0.5 percent of the economically active population (end of June 2012 – 0.6 percent).

---

In the second quarter of 2013 the EBRD Chief Economist's Office published [Regional Economic Prospects in EBRD countries of operation: May 2013](#).

In the materials dedicated to Belarus the EBRD follows the policy of lot approach and notes definite positive changes, but at the same time criticizing some problem points of small and medium-sized businesses, privatization, public sector domination, economic reforms.

The EBRD forecasts 2 percent GDP growth for Belarus in 2013, which means 0,5 percent increase if compared to that of January. So, Belarus is the only country in its region for which the forecast was improved by the Bank experts (Azerbaijan – 3,5 percent (-0,5 percent), Georgia – 3,0 percent (-2,0 percent), Moldova – 2,5 percent (-0,5 percent), the forecast for Armenian is unchanged – 5,0 percent). The GDP growth forecast for Russian degraded two times by the EBRD specialists down to 1,8 percent.

**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 July 2013 reports that the fields of Belarus, as well as Moldova, are in quite good condition, and the early forecast for the crops production in 2013 exceeds average production over the last five years. In particular, Belarus experiences 17 percent increase through sustainable growth in the last four years.

Despite FAO states that stable increase in prices for wheat flour and bread in the domestic market (to 0.65 USD per kilo in June 2013), Belarusian products are still more attractive if compared to Russian ones (0.85 USD per kilo) according to the price diagram presented in the FAO Report.

As follows from the analysis of the global market situation presented in the newsletter, despite decrease in poultry trade in the world markets, Belarus increases its exports.

Aside from that the increase in milk production is recorded in the country in 2013, which is explained by the implementation of state encouraging measures in the field.

According to FAO forecasts, 2013 will see the insignificant growth in dehydrated milk exports, which will be provided mainly by three countries including Belarus.

---

**The information agency Bloomberg** created [Most Stressed - Out Countries ranking](#). As follows from the ranking Belarus takes the [41<sup>st</sup> place](#) and goes ahead of 40 countries, including Russia, Lithuania, Latvia and Greece. Norway is the leading country in the ranking (74) , Nigeria shows the worst results.

The well-being of the country according to the authors of the ranking is determined by 7 characteristics: annual homicide rate, GDP per capita, income inequality, level of corruption, rate of unemployment, air pollution and longevity.

The highest positions according to some parameters of the ranking Belarus occupies in the unemployment rate (leading with the minimum rate) and Gini Index that measures the degree of income inequality (0 – absolute equality, 100 – absolute inequality): Belarus got the index of 27.2, taking the 11th place in the world.

**International non-governmental organization "Save the Children"** published a report *State of the World's Mothers – 2013* according to which Belarus takes the 26th position in the ranking according to motherhood index and goes ahead all the CIS countries, as well as Latvia, Malta, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia, the USA, Japan (2011 – 33rd place).

The ranking includes 176 countries.

The research is based on five key indicators: statistics of maternal and child mortality, health care system functioning, the educational system, the average level of income and participation of women in political and social life of the country.

As follows from the report according to the "infant mortality at birth"<sup>1</sup> index Belarus, with the index of 1, is in the same group with Belgium, Great Britain, Hungary, Germany, Denmark, Israel, Ireland, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Finland, France and Japan.

<sup>1</sup> The highest index is 18, the lowest – 0.5

