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Introduction

The present publication is a supplement to the monthly information on the socio-economic situation of the country and contains a set of basic short-term statistical data for the European Union, Euro-zone and individual Member States. It is published on a monthly basis and its scope may undergo modifications.

The majority of presented macro-economic categories belong to the Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEI). The main source for these data are News Releases, available at the Eurostat's WWW site: www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat.

Tables including monthly and quarterly data have been accompanied by brief methodological explanations. The terms of individual categories applied in this publication, the sequence of countries and their codes are consistent with those adopted by the Eurostat, which facilitate the readers to find more detailed information in Eurostat's source materials.

Contact: Analyses and Regional Statistics Division, Central Statistical Office; tel. (48 22) 608 32 46; (48 22) 608 38 38; e-mail: e.czumaj@stat.gov.pl

Abbreviations:

- **UE 25** (25 countries-members of EU: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Spain, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Hungary, United Kingdom, Italy).
- **Euro - zone** (12 countries-members of Economic and Monetary Union: Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Greece, Spain, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Italy).

Methodological notes

This publication contains most up-to-date available statistical data published by the Eurostat; most frequently figures are of a preliminary nature.

If tables contain a remark on seasonally adjusted data, it means that presented data has been adjusted in terms of both the number of working days as well as of seasonality.

The terms used in the publication have the following meaning:

Gross domestic product (GDP) – data is computed in accordance with the ESA'95 national accounts system methodology.

Labour cost index – concerns total cost of employing labour force calculated per 1 hour worked, that is borne by employers over a short period of time (a quarter). Total labour costs contain gross wages and salaries and other labour costs. Presented data concerns entities conducting economic activity classified under sections C – K of the Polish Classification of Activities.

Harmonized unemployment rate – computed as a percentage share of the unemployed in the number of economically active persons (i.e. the sum of employed and unemployed persons). The harmonized unemployment rate results from a harmonized method of calculating that indicator for each country, that has been adopted by the Eurostat. Eurostat computes data on the basis of quarterly results of Labour Force Survey and monthly figures on

registered unemployment. Methodological notes concerning the determination of the harmonized unemployment rate have been included in Annex to News Release 67/2002 of June 4, 2002.

Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) is computed in accordance with unified methodology of the European Union by the EU member and candidate countries. The basis for computation of HICP for Poland constitutes observation of prices of representative consumer goods and services and the weights based on the household final monetary consumption expenditure (in 2006 – consumption expenditure from 2004 in prices of December 2005). The grouping of consumer goods and services is presented on the basis of the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose adapted to the needs of the HICP (COICOP/HICP).

Industrial producer prices on the domestic market – producer prices index reflects monthly changes in prices received by producers in transactions actually executed on the domestic market. Prices comprise of all charges and taxes on products and services invoiced by the producer, excluding VAT.

Industrial new orders – indicator showing the development of demand for products and services as an indication of future production. An order is defined as the value of a contract linking a producer with a third party in respect of delivery of products and services. Data concerns selected divisions of section D (divisions of the Polish Classification of Activities: 17, 18, 21, 24, 27-35) Methodological notes have been included in the annex to News Release 135/2003 of November 26, 2003.

Turnover in retail trade – indicator of turnover (net revenues from the sale of products, goods and materials) in retail trade (in constant prices) exhibits changes in the activity of retail trade enterprises (in the form of changes in the sales index). In the EU statistics, it is applied for the purposes of on-going assessment (monthly) of consumer's demand.

External trade – value of imports on a CIF basis, while of exports – on a FOB basis. The presented values concern total external trade.