

## ECONOMY AND FINANCE

THEME 2 - 27/2000

### **NATIONAL ACCOUNTS**

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# THE GDP OF THE CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

- Annual data for 1999 -

### Silke Stapel

### **Annual GDP growth**

### CC growth drops below EU-15 for first time since 1994

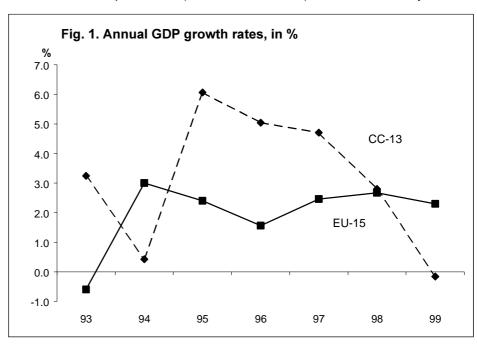
This publication presents GDP data for the European Union Candidate Countries (CCs), introducing 1999 figures for the first time. It focuses on annual data, providing more detailed breakdowns and comparisons with the EU Member States than is shown in the quarterly publications.

It is the first time that Eurostat has presented data in such detail for Malta and Turkey. As before, the CCs Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia are included, along with comparisons against EU-15 Member States.

A separate publication (Statistics in Focus 17/2000) is available which shows the latest quarterly GDP data, though not broken down into such detailed components.

The most prominent feature of the newly released figures is the 1999 annual growth rates, which show the GDP growth of the CC-13 group dropping below that of the EU for the first time since 1994. Growth rates for each CC, which vary greatly, are shown overleaf.

The national accounts data in this Statistics in Focus are presented as follows: First of all, the annual growth in GDP is shown, followed by GDP at current prices in euro ('national total' and 'per head'). To enable better comparisons between countries, data are then shown in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) (total and 'per head'), before the report turns to expenditure breakdowns and production (Gross Value Added) and investment by branch.



With nine of the CCs experiencing a decline in growth in 1999 and Estonia, Lithuania and Turkey joining Romania and the Czech Republic in negative growth, the CC-13 group as a whole has plummeted from a growth rate of 2.8% in 1998 to -0.2% in 1999. Turkey, because of its economic size, has a high

weighting in the average, and its growth rate of -5.0% is reflected in this. Cyprus, Hungary, Malta, and Slovenia, however, all enjoyed rates of at least 4.5%. Only seven of the thirteen bettered the slowest-growing EU Member State, compared to twelve, ten and eleven countries in the 1996 to 1998 period.

Table 1. Annual GDP growth rates, percentage change on previous year

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Bulgaria (BG)	-1.5	1.8	2.9	-10.1	-7.0	3.5	2.4
Cyprus (CY)	0.7	5.9	6.1	1.9	2.4	5.0	4.5
Czech Republic (CZ)	0.1	2.2	5.9	4.8	-1.0	-2.2	-0.2
Estonia (EE)	-9.0	-2.0	4.3	3.9	10.6	4.7	-1.1
Hungary (HU)	-0.6	2.9	1.5	1.3	4.6	4.9	4.5
Latvia (LV)	-14.9	0.6	-0.8	3.3	8.6	3.9	0.1
Lithuania (LT)	-16.2	-9.8	3.3	4.7	7.3	5.1	-4.1
Malta (MT)	4.5	5.7	6.2	4.0	4.9	3.4	4.6
Poland (PL)	3.8	5.2	7.0	6.0	6.8	4.8	4.1
Romania (RO)	1.5	3.9	7.1	3.9	-6.1	-5.4	-3.2
Slovak Republic (SK)	-3.7	4.9	6.9	6.6	6.5	4.4	1.9
Slovenia (SI)	2.8	5.3	4.1	3.5	4.6	3.8	4.9
Turkey (TR)	8.4	-5.5	7.2	7.0	7.5	3.1	-5.0
Total (CC-13)	3.2	0.4	6.1	5.0	4.7	2.8	-0.2
EU-15( <sup>1</sup> )	-0.6	3.0	2.4	1.6	2.5	2.7	2.3
EU-minimum( <sup>1</sup> )	-2.2	2	1.2	0.8	1.2	1.5	1.4
	S	G	D	D	Α	I	1
EU-maximum( <sup>1</sup> )	4.1	8.1	11.8	7.7	10.7	8.9	8.3
	L	IRL	IRL	IRL	IRL	IRL	IRL

<sup>(1)</sup> Based on ESA79 up to 1995, ESA95 from 1996 onwards

#### **GDP IN EURO**

### Total CC-13 GDP almost 7% of EU-15 area as measured in euro

In simple euro terms, the CC-13 group, even with the inclusion of Turkey, amounts to a very small economic area compared to the European Union. The total GDP in euro of the CC-13 represents just 6.6% of EU-15 GDP. Before 1999, this ratio had been increasing, but the downturn of the CCs average in this year reversed this trend.

As in the EU-15, the CC economies are very diverse in size. Turkey is by far the largest CC in euro terms, representing 33% of the CC-13 total. Only the Polish economy is even vaguely comparable in size, with 28% of CC-13 GDP. Malta has the smallest economy with a GDP of only 3.4 Bn euro (51 times smaller than Turkey, 5 times smaller than Luxembourg). Even grouping Malta with the five other smallest CCs gives a total of only 44 Bn euro, or 8% of the CC-13 total, barely 0.5% of the EU-15.

### Massive differences in per head figures across the CCs

Measured in per head terms, the CC figures are also very wide-ranging, stretching from 1400 euro in Bulgaria (7% of the EU-15 figure) to 12800 euro

Table 2. GDP at current prices and exchange rates, in Bn FURO

III BII EGILO						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
BG	8.2	10.0	7.8	9.0	11.0	11.6
CY	6.3	6.8	7.0	7.5	8.1	8.5
CZ	34.6	39.8	45.6	46.4	49.5	49.8
EE	1.9	2.7	3.4	4.1	4.7	4.8
HU	34.9	34.1	35.6	40.4	41.9	45.4
LV	3.1	3.4	4.0	5.0	5.4	5.7
LT	3.6	4.6	6.2	8.5	9.6	10.0
MT	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.9	3.1	3.4
PL	82.9	96.6	112.6	126.3	140.2	144.7
RO	25.2	27.1	27.8	31.2	36.9	31.9
SK	11.6	13.3	14.8	17.2	18.1	17.7
SI	12.1	14.3	14.9	16.1	17.5	18.7
TR	108.9	129.6	143.1	167.8	177.8	173.0
CC-13	335.5	384.8	425.5	482.3	523.9	525.3
EU-15	:	6 578 9	6 906.6	7 269 7	7 593 6	7 965.3
% of EU-15	:	5.8	6.2	6.6	6.9	6.6
EU-15 min		14.0	14.3	15.4	16.4	17.5

in Cyprus (61% of EU-15 figure).

However, countries can be more meaningfully compared using PPS figures which take into consideration the price differences between countries (see next section).



Table 3. GDP per head at current prices and exchange rates

			EURO					EU	-15 = 100		
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
BG	1 000	1 200	900	1 100	1 300	1 400	7	5	6	7	7
CY	9 900	10 500	10 800	11 400	12 300	12 800	60	59	59	61	61
CZ	3 400	3 900	4 400	4 500	4 800	4 800	22	24	23	24	23
EE	1 300	1 800	2 300	2 800	3 200	3 300	10	13	15	16	16
HU	3 400	3 300	3 500	4 000	4 100	4 500	19	19	21	21	21
LV	1 200	1 400	1 600	2 000	2 200	2 400	8	9	10	11	11
LT	1 000	1 200	1 700	2 300	2 600	2 700	7	9	12	13	13
MT	6 100	6 600	6 900	7 700	8 100	8 800	37	37	40	40	42
PL	2 200	2 500	2 900	3 300	3 600	3 700	14	16	17	18	18
RO	1 100	1 200	1 200	1 400	1 600	1 400	7	7	7	8	7
SK	2 200	2 500	2 800	3 200	3 400	3 300	14	15	16	17	16
SI	6 100	7 200	7 500	8 100	8 800	9 400	41	41	42	44	45
TR	1 800	2 100	2 300	2 700	2 800	2 700	12	13	14	14	13
CC-13	2 000	2 300	2 500	2 900	3 100	3 100	13	14	15	15	15

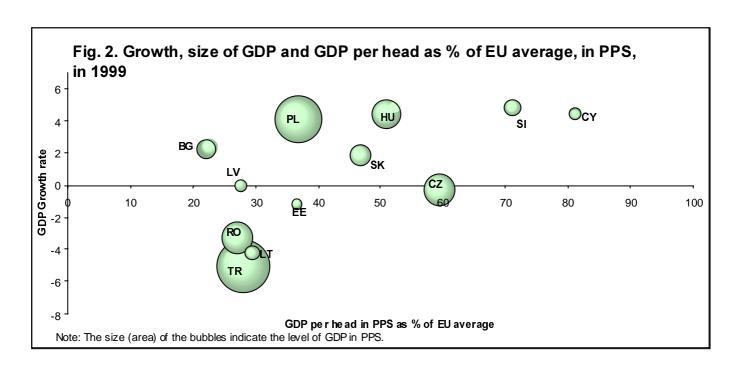
*Note*: For the calculation of per capita GDP, the data for the total population is taken from the national accounts; it may be different from that obtained via demographic statistics

#### **GDP IN REAL TERMS**

### Cyprus and Slovenia soar ahead

Figure 2 summarises the current position of the CCs in 1999 using the three key indicators of 'annual growth', 'GDP per head in PPS' and 'size of economy'. Cyprus and Slovenia are performing strongly, being positioned in the top right-hand portion of the graph and therefore exhibiting high growth and GDP per head which is already approaching that of the EU-15.

Looking at the bottom left-hand corner of the graph, we see that Romania, Turkey and the three Baltic states find themselves in a more difficult position, with low GDP per head, and negative growth. Bulgaria has lowest GDP per head, at 22% of the EU-average, but achieved positive growth of 2.4% in 1999.





### Turkey and Poland among eight largest economies of EU-15 and CC's, in real terms

When making comparisons between the GDP of different countries, it is informative to express figures in an artificial currency unit called PPS (Purchasing Power Standard). This makes allowances for the varying price levels in different countries and makes the comparisons of GDP, both in absolute terms and 'per head', more meaningful.

Looking at Table 4 we see that the CC-13 group is not as small compared to the EU-15 as it appeared in euro terms (Table 2). Without Malta, who do not yet provide PPS figures, it amounts to 15.3% of the EU total in 1999, compared to just 6.6% when using the euro figures.

The individual CCs and EU Member States are ranked in the table by their GDP in 1999. Turkey and Poland can be seen to be significant players, both appearing in the eight largest economies above Belgium, Sweden and Austria, with Turkey also eclipsing the Netherlands.

It is still visible, however, that the CCs are generally smaller than the Member States. They occupy ten of the thirteen lowest positions in terms of GDP at PPS, disregarding Malta.

Table 4. GDP at current prices in Bn PPS

		•			
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
D	1 586.0	1 660.6	1 720.2	1 788.3	1 864.1
UK	988.8	1 066.9	1 163.8	1 215.5	1 281.8
F	1 088.9	1 122.2	1 150.0	1 203.5	1 265.0
1	1 046.1	1 096.2	1 137.0	1 176.2	1 219.2
Е	541.4	575.3	607.3	641.4	682.5
TR	315.6	346.8	382.2	403.0	378.3
NL	298.1	306.7	340.4	357.3	376.8
PL	216.5	238.9	264.6	279.7	299.1
В	200.8	207.3	219.0	229.6	239.7
S	159.8	165.8	174.5	181.8	191.5
Α	156.9	166.5	174.7	181.2	190.5
Р	122.7	128.0	140.9	150.1	159.2
EL	121.7	129.3	133.8	140.1	149.4
DK	108.9	115.9	122.6	127.4	133.0
CZ	113.6	123.9	127.2	125.4	128.5
RO	127.7	138.1	134.5	128.3	127.6
FIN	87.4	90.4	99.1	105.5	109.3
HU	83.0	87.6	94.9	100.4	107.8
IRL	58.7	62.4	72.3	80.3	88.5
SK	39.2	43.5	48.1	50.6	53.0
BG	41.0	38.4	36.3	37.3	39.0
SI	22.5	24.3	26.3	27.6	29.7
LT	18.0	19.7	21.9	23.2	22.8
L	12.6	13.1	14.3	15.2	16.9
LV	10.8	11.6	13.1	13.7	14.1
CY	8.9	9.4	10.0	10.6	11.4
EE	8.3	9.0	10.3	10.9	11.1
MT	:	:	:	:	:
CC-13 ( <sup>1</sup> )	1 005.3	1 091.1	1 169 4	1 210.7	1 222.4
EU-15	6 578.9	6 906.6	7 269.7	7 593.6	7 965.3

Source: Eurostat, OECD, ÖSTAT

(1) Not including Malta

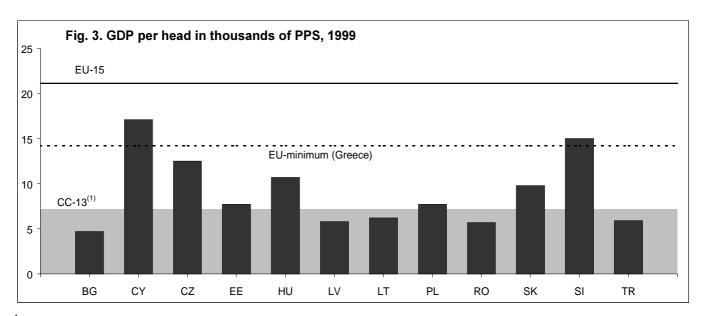
### Cyprus and Slovenia moving closest to EU average GDP per head, in PPS

Cyprus have only very recently supplied data in PPS and we are now able to see from Table 5 that their GDP per head is significantly above that of both Portugal and Greece. Furthermore, at 81% of the EU-15 average, they are just one percentage point behind the figure for Spain.

Slovenia has managed, in the last five years, to move from a GDP per head which was 62% of the

EU-15 figure to one of 71%, overtaking Greece in the process. Bulgaria and Romania, on the other hand, fell further behind the EU-15 and the CC-13 group, dropping by 4 to 5 percentage points to GDP per head of just 4700 and 5700 PPS, compared to the EU-15's 21100 and the CC-13 average of 7200. There is a highly visible divide between the Candidate Countries and the EU Member States, with CCs occupying the bottom ten positions, disregarding Malta.





(1) Not including Malta.

Table 5. GDP per head at current prices in PPS

		İı	n PPS				E	U-15=100	)	
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
L	30 500	31 400	33 700	35 500	38 800	173	170	174	176	184
DK	20 900	22 100	23 200	24 000	25 000	118	120	120	119	118
NL	19 300	19 800	21 800	22 800	23 800	109	107	113	113	113
Α	19 500	20 700	21 700	22 400	23 600	111	112	112	111	112
IRL	16 300	17 200	19 800	21 700	23 600	93	93	102	107	112
В	19 800	20 400	21 500	22 500	23 400	112	111	111	112	111
D	19 400	20 300	21 000	21 800	22 700	110	110	108	108	108
UK	16 900	18 200	19 700	20 500	21 600	96	98	102	102	102
S	18 100	18 700	19 700	20 500	21 600	103	102	102	102	102
1	18 300	19 100	19 800	20 400	21 200	104	104	102	101	100
FIN	17 100	17 600	19 300	20 500	21 200	97	96	100	102	100
F	18 300	18 700	19 100	19 900	20 900	104	102	99	99	99
E	13 800	14 700	15 400	16 300	17 300	78	79	80	81	82
CY	13 800	14 500	15 300	16 000	17 100	76	79	79	79	81
Р	12 400	12 900	14 200	15 100	15 900	70	70	73	75	76
SI	11 300	12 200	13 200	13 900	15 000	62	66	68	69	71
EL	11 600	12 300	12 800	13 300	14 200	66	67	66	66	67
CZ	11 000	12 000	12 300	12 200	12 500	60	65	64	60	59
HU	8 100	8 600	9 300	9 900	10 700	45	47	48	49	51
SK	7 300	8 100	8 900	9 400	9 800	40	44	46	47	47
PL	5 600	6 200	6 800	7 200	7 700	31	34	35	36	37
EE	5 600	6 100	7 100	7 500	7 700	31	33	37	37	36
LT	4 900	5 300	5 900	6 300	6 200	27	29	30	31	29
TR	5 200	5 600	6 100	6 400	5 900	29	31	32	32	28
LV	4 300	4 700	5 300	5 600	5 800	24	25	27	28	27
RO	5 600	6 100	6 000	5 700	5 700	31	33	31	28	27
BG	4 900	4 600	4 400	4 500	4 700	27	25	23	22	22
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:			
CC-13	6 000	6 500	7 000	7 200	7 200	33	35	36	36	34
EU-15	17 600	18 400	19 400	20 200	21 100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: For the calculation of per capita GDP, the data for the total population is taken from the national accounts: it may be different from that obtained via demographic statistics

Source: Eurostat, OECD, ÖSTAT



#### **GDP MAIN AGGREGATES**

### **Expenditure components**

In 1999, the share of GDP accounted for by final consumption of households and NPISH varied amongst the CCs from 51.1% in the Slovak Republic to 74.8% in Bulgaria, Table 6 shows. EU-15 figures, however, are even more wide-ranging, from 44.2% in Luxembourg to 74.1% in Greece. With the exception of Cyprus (whose share rose steeply between 1995 and 1999), there is a tendency for the low-performing countries to use a higher share of their GDP for this component, satisfying basic needs from limited incomes.

Concerning Final Consumption of General Government, CC figures range from just 14.1% in Turkey to 23.7% in Estonia. Most of the CCs fall within the EU-range, however, which begins with 14.2% in Ireland and ends with the high Scandinavian rates of 25.8% and 27.0% in Denmark and Sweden.

In terms of GFCF, the Slovak Republic far exceeds the other CCs with 33.0% of its GDP being attributed to this, though this is lower than the 38.6% of 1997. This is far above the highest Member State, Portugal, on 26.9%. At the other end of the scale, Bulgaria records 15.9% compared to the EU-minimum of 16.6% in Sweden.

New data for Malta shows them to be by far the most prolific foreign traders, relative to their economic size. Exports in 1999 were worth 91.9% of their GDP, with imports slightly higher at 96.8%. Turkey's exports, on the other hand, amounted to 21.6% of its GDP, whilst it imports 25.0%. Trade for EU Member States varies even more greatly, with imports ranging from 17.8% to 113.2% of GDP (Greece and Luxembourg) and exports stretching from 23.5% to 95.5% (Italy and Luxembourg). On average, the economies of the CC-13 group are far more foreign trade oriented than the EU-15.

Table 6. Main GDP aggregates, as a % of total GDP

			Final con	sumpti	on													
		nouse		of general			GFCF		Exports		lmports		i	External				
	and NPISH			ge	overnr	nent										trad	e bala	nce
	95	97	99	95	97	99	95	97	99	95	97	99	95	97	99	95	97	99
BG	70.7	70.3	74.8	15.3	12.8	15.8	15.3	10.8	15.9	44.7	61.9	44.1	46.3	56.4	51.9	-1.6	5.5	-7.8
CY	63.7	66.1	66.9	16.1	18.8	18.0	19.2	19.0	17.8	46.6	47.0	44.6	49.9	52.1	49.3	-3.3	-5.1	-4.7
CZ	50.8	53.3	53.4	19.9	19.9	19.7	32.0	30.8	26.4	53.6	56.9	63.6	58.4	62.9	65.2	-4.8	-6.0	-1.6
EE	58.9	59.0	58.6	25.4	22.1	23.7	26.0	27.9	25.1	72.4	78.1	76.9	80.4	89.6	82.6	-8.0	-11.5	-5.7
HU	53.7	50.3	51.8	23.6	21.9	21.9	20.0	22.2	23.9	36.9	45.5	52.6	38.2	45.5	55.0	-1.3	0.0	-2.4
LV	62.6	66.6	64.5 ( <sup>1</sup> )	22.2	19.1	19.0	15.1	18.7	25.0	46.9	51.0	46.7	49.3	59.5	57.6	-2.4	-8.5	-10.9
LT	67.4	65.1	64.9	19.7	19.0	22.5	23.0	24.4	22.5	53.0	54.5	39.8	64.8	65.1	50.1	-11.8	-10.6	-10.3
MT	61.1	62.4	62.8	20.5	20.5	18.7	31.9	25.3	22.7	93.8	85.1	91.9	107.5	93.5	96.8	-13.7	-8.4	-4.9
PL	61.2	63.5	63.2	16.6	16.1	16.5	18.7	23.6	26.5	25.5	25.7	25.7	23.2	30.0	32.9	2.3	-4.3	-7.2
RO	67.6	74.1	72.7 ( <sup>1</sup> )	13.7	12.3	14.0 ( <sup>1</sup> )	21.4	21.2	18.5	27.6	29.2	30.1	33.2	36.2	34.3	-5.6	-7.0	-4.2
SK	51.4	49.7	51.1	19.5	21.9	20.9	26.4	38.6	33.0	59.8	60.7	64.8	58.0	71.0	69.8	1.8	-10.3	-5.0
SI	58.1	56.5	55.4	20.2	20.5	20.6	21.4	23.5	26.9	55.2	57.1	52.7	56.8	58.3	56.7	-1.6	-1.2	-4.0
TR	68.9	68.3	67.6	10.6	12.3	14.1	23.3	26.5	20.3	19.5	24.7	21.6	19.6	30.5	25.0	-0.1	-5.8	-3.4
CC-13	62.4	63.2	62.9	15.7	15.9	16.9	22.4	25.3	23.5	32.0	35.1	34.9	32.9	40.1	39.6	-0.9	-5.0	-4.7
EU-15	57.4	57.8	58.2	20.7	20.3	20.0	19.8	19.5	20.2	29.7	31.9	32.0	28.0	29.7	30.8	1.7	2.2	1.2

<sup>(1) 1998</sup> data

In 1999, all CCs exhibited a trade deficit with Bulgaria and Hungary slipping from positions of surplus and balance in 1997. The Baltic States of Latvia and Lithuania had the highest trade deficits in 1999, exceeding 10% of their GDP.

### **GVA and GFCF by branch**

GVA figures broken down by branch (Table 7) are now available for all CCs up to and including 1998.

In 1998, it is in 'Agriculture' where the differences between the CCs are most obvious, ranging from 2.7%

in Malta to 21.1% in Bulgaria. The available EU figures are much smaller, generally around 3-4%, though Greece is by far the highest at 8.1% of GVA.

Concerning differences between 1995 and 1998, Bulgaria's (from 1996) increased 'Agriculture' share of almost 5 percentage points in GVA stands out, while it dropped significantly in Latvia, Poland and Romania. In these three countries this was concurrent with a considerable increase in the share of 'Service activities' in GVA.



'Service Activities', a broad category taking the largest share of GVA, varies between 62.7% and 78.7% in the EU Member States (Portugal and Luxembourg) and between 47.6% and 73.7% (Romania and Cyprus) in the CCs, with a great deal of overlap. 'Industry and Construction' occupy slightly higher shares in the CCs than in the available EU Member States.

Data availability for GFCF by branch, shown in Table 8, is more limited. The outstanding figures generally reflect the shares shown in Table 7, with Cyprus investing heavily in 'Service Activities' (78%) and Romania only investing 41% of GFCF in this branch. In the case of Romania, most prominently, the fall in investment in agriculture coincides with the lower GVA share for this branch.

Table 7. Gross Value Added by branch, as a % of the total

	Agricu fishin		Indus includ Ener	ding	Constru	ıction	Service activities		
	AYA+	AYB	AYC_	AYE	AY	F	AYG_	AYQ	
	95	98	95	98	95	98	95	98	
BG <sup>(1)</sup>	15.4	21.1	25.9	25.0	4.3	3.7	54.4	50.2	
CY	5.3	4.4	15.0	13.8	8.9	8.1	70.8	73.7	
CZ	4.7	4.6	33.3	35.3	8.7	8.1	53.3	52.0	
EE	7.9	6.3	23.1	21.2	5.9	6.4	63.1	66.1	
HU	6.8	5.5	26.3	28.2	4.6	4.6	62.3	61.7	
LV	10.8	4.3	28.1	23.4	5.1	6.9	56.0	65.4	
LT	11.7	10.3	26.1	23.9	7.1	8.6	55.1	57.2	
MT	2.9	2.7	25.5	25.0	3.3	2.8	68.3	69.5	
PL	7.0	4.8	31.9	27.7	7.3	8.5	53.8	59.0	
RO	20.7	16.1	34.5	30.4	6.9	5.9	37.9	47.6	
SK	5.6	4.6	33.3	28.1	5.3	5.2	55.8	62.1	
SI	4.5	4.1	32.6	32.0	5.0	5.6	57.9	58.3	
TR	15.0	16.9	25.8	21.4	5.4	5.6	53.8	56.1	
CC-13	10.5	10.1	29.1	26.2	6.3	6.6	54.1	57.1	

<sup>(1) 1995</sup> data are not available. 1996 shown instead.

Table 8. Gross Fixed Capital Formation by branch, as a % of the total

	Agriculture fishing		indus inclu Ene	ding	Construc- tion		Service activities			
	AYA+A	YΒ	AYC	AYE	AY	F	AYG	AYG AYQ		
	95	98	95	98	95	98	95	98		
BG	:	:	:		:		:	:		
CY	4.2	4.5	12.1	15.1	2.2	2.0	81.5	78.4		
CZ	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		
EE	6.0	3.6	25.2	30.2	4.5	3.5	64.2	62.7		
HU	2.9	3.6	30.7	33.7	1.6	1.9	64.9	60.7		
LV	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		
LT	5.9	5.0	27.7	30.0	4.0	4.2	62.4	60.7		
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		
PL	2.7	1.7	32.4	29.2	3.7	5.5	39.6	43.1		
RO	10.9	6.8	41.6	45.6	5.2	7.0	42.3	40.7		
SK	4.1	3.4	32.4	32.2	9.8	6.5	53.7	57.9		
SI	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	<u>:</u>		

### > ESSENTIAL INFORMATION - METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The Candidate Countries, with the exception of Turkey, send Eurostat data 4 times per year using the same standardised format as the Member States, though the completeness of the tables varies from country to country. Data for this publication were supplied prior to mid-May 2000, at the latest, and have been validated by Eurostat. There are significant differences in the 1998 GDP estimates for Romania, compared to previous publications, due to the replacement of provisional accounts (based on quarterly data) by semi-final annual accounts.

#### Other data sources

Since Turkey do not yet participate in the systematic submission of National Accounts data to Eurostat, the data shown in this publication have been drawn from a general statistical questionnaire submitted to Eurostat by the Turkish Statistical Office, in June 2000.

### Missing data

The most important of these are the figures in PPS for Malta. Malta has not yet participated in the Price Comparison Round which is essential in order to determine the exchange rate between the Maltese Lira and the Purchasing Power Standard. The first data are expected later in the year 2000.

Some countries have been unable to supply data for Table 8, GFCF broken down by branches. This mainly reflects the state of the basic statistics and the longer delays in the field of investment statistics in the CCs.

#### **Data quality**

The NA data of the CCs are not yet compliant with the ESA 95 standard and should therefore continue to be treated with some caution. Comparability with EU Member States cannot be guaranteed. However, the CCs have generally made significant progress in improving the quality of their estimates over the past couple of years. This was supported by a series of EU-sponsored projects and workshops, which helped to improve the sources and methods used to compile National Accounts and heightened the exhaustiveness and consistency of the different national accounting systems. However, not all the changes have yet been implemented in the accounts for all years and the problem of consistent time series, in particular, remains to be solved in most CCs. Therefore, also in future revisions of level and growth rates of GDP might have to be anticipated.

Turkey and Malta have not, as yet, participated in this work. However, Turkey bases its accounts on SNA 1993 (according to its Statistical Office website). Malta, nevertheless, still uses a dated system based on SNA 1954 and 1968.



### Further information:

#### **Databases**

New Cronos, Domain: NA\_MNAG

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