

BELARUS. INTERNATIONAL RATINGS



In May 2016 the **Fitch Ratings** report “**The Republic of Belarus 2016: review of the macroeconomic situation and the banking sector**” was presented at a conference in Minsk. According to Fitch Ratings, the Gross Domestic Product per capita in Belarus is reported at \$5,557 and is almost 40% greater than in comparable countries.

The report also notes that Belarus is significantly ahead of comparable countries in the World Bank indicators of doing business and the human development index. Belarus has higher indicators regarding the openness of trade, domestic savings and investment.

In February 2016 Fitch Ratings assigned Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus JSC a long-term foreign currency Issuer Default Rating of 'B-', short-term foreign currency Issuer Default Rating of 'B' with a Stable Outlook.



According to the “**World Investment Report 2016**”, released by the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** in June 2016, positive trends in terms of FDI stock are being observed in Belarus:

- \$1,306 billion in 2000,
- \$9,904 billion in 2010,
- \$17,972 billion in 2015.

The report also says that at times of significant decline in FDI in the CIS region and Georgia in 2015 (42%), as well as the decline in FDI inflows by more than half in Russia and Kazakhstan, FDI in Belarus fell slightly (by 15.4%). From there, the situation

of FDI attraction in Belarus seems to be more stable in comparison with its partners in the region. According to the report, Belarus increased its investments abroad by 3 times in 2015:

- \$ 39 billion in 2014,
- \$ 118 billion in 2015.





The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has released the “Overview of the recent agricultural trade policies in the post-Soviet countries in 2014-2015”.

According to the publication, Belarus is one of the undisputed leaders among the countries of the former Soviet Union by the volume of the production. Belarus consistently ensures sufficient level of food security through its’ own production.

Occupying 0.15% of the world territory with 0.17% of the worlds’ population, the country occupies a significant place

in the world production and export of agricultural and food products: **3rd place** in the export of flax fiber and **7th place** in the export of dairy products.

Belarus is also one of the **top-20** countries in exports of sugar, rapeseed oil and beef.



According to the report by the World Travel and Tourism Council, Belarus is in **top-10** countries that expect the largest growth rate of investment in tourism industry in 2016.

As the World Travel and Tourism Council predicts, investment in the tourism industry in Belarus will grow by 12% in 2016. Hence, the country occupies **6th place** in the world on this indicator. An estimated growth is higher than the world’ average (4.7%) and the European average (4.1%) growth. The report also notes that by this indicator Belarus significantly outpaces its’ neighbors – Lithuania (160th), Poland (171th), Russia (180th) and Ukraine (183th).

The World Travel and Tourism



Council present an optimistic forecast regarding tourism and exports of services. According to the Council data, in 2015 Belarus earned \$ 1 billion from tourism. Analysts predict that this figure will increase by 4.3% in 2016 (the average growth

in Europe is estimated by 3.4%, in the world – 3%). As the result, by the ranking of growth of tourism services export Belarus occupies **54th place**.

Thus, the country overtakes such countries of its region as Poland, Finland, Hungary, Lithuania and Estonia, but gives way to Russia (20th) and Ukraine (32th).

In May 2016 the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has released statistics digest “Information society in the CIS countries”. According to the digest, by the ITU ICT Development Index, Belarus ranks **38th** among 166 countries and takes **1st place** in the CIS

region. By the UN Electronic Government Development Index, Belarus holds **55th place** out of 193 countries and **3rd place** in the CIS region. Belarus ranks **23rd** out of 29 and **5th** among the CIS countries in the ITU Global Cyber Security Index.



According to the survey, Belarus has reached a success in such areas as the development of ICT infrastructure (**1st place** among the CIS countries), capacity building and promotion of the use of ICT.

According to the level of application of information and communication technologies in all spheres of life, the highest degree of penetration of modern

information technologies in Belarus is noted in scientific area, e-learning and electronic environment protection.



International non-governmental organization **The World Justice Project (WJP)** ranks Belarus **50th** on the index of the rule of law.

Kazakhstan occupies 65th place, Ukraine – 70th, Russia – 75th. 102 countries are represented in the rating.

Denmark, Norway and Sweden are at the top of the list.

The index includes the composites indicators that are estimated in accordance with data from expert sources and on the basis of public opinion.

The ranking takes into account the following criteria:

- limitation on power of the governmental institutions;
- absence of corruption;
- transparency of government institutions;
- protection of fundamental rights of citizens;
- law compliance;
- law, order and security.



In 2016 the **UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)** issued a report “**A fair chance for every child**” on the state of children that indicates statistics for 2010-2015 by countries and regions on economic and social indicators that are “of particular importance for the well-being of children”.

Belarus has one of the lowest under-five infant mortality rates – 5 deaths per 1000 children. Compared to the 1990s, child mortality has declined by more than three times. By this indicator, Belarus together with such countries as Poland, Montenegro, Lithuania and Canada occupies 159th place.

Furthermore, the infant mortality rate in Belarus is lower than in the United States, Latvia, New Zealand and all the CIS countries.

Belarus has one of the worlds’ lowest infant mortality rates – 3 deaths per 1000 children. In 2015 in comparison to the 1990s, this figure decreased by more than 4 times. Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Ireland and Israel show similar results.

Infant mortality rate in Belarus is lower than in the U.S., UK, France, South Korea, Russia, Poland, Latvia, Slovakia, Serbia and Ukraine.



The infant mortality rate (2 deaths per 1000 children in 2015) in Belarus is one of the lowest in the world. The figure is lower than in Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, the U.S., South Korea, Russia and Poland.

Belarus has one of the highest rates of child vaccination (97–99%). The rate is comparable with the relevant rate in the developed countries.

Belarus provides professional assistance in childbirth in 100% cases.

In Belarus the maternal mortality rate remain among the lowest in the world. Belarus with 1 death per 13,800 births occupies the 8th place in the world. The country is surpassed only by Greece,

Poland, Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, Iceland and Italy. In the U.S. the maternal mortality rate is 3.6 times higher than in Belarus, in Russia this figure is 6 times higher.

In June 2016 Belarus received the certificate of the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, that validates the complete elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis as public health problem in Belarus. Hence, Belarus is the first and so far the only country in Europe that received relevant certificate.

Nowadays there are only three countries in the world (Belarus, Cuba and Thailand) that are officially certified by the WHO as having completely eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis.

The global criteria and procedure for identification of the total elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis were established by the WHO in 2014. The current ceremony dedicated to the national achievements in this sphere was held for the second time.

The success of Belarus was possible thanks to a consistent long-term work of Belarusian doctors and due to the high priority that the Belarusian state accords to the improvement and comprehensive development of the national health system.





Experts of the **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)** prepared the third **environmental performance review of Belarus**. According to the review, Belarus has high implementation rates of the recommendations of the 2nd EPR – 84% (one of the best indicators among the member states of the UNECE).

The UNECE noted the following improvements in the environmental situation of Belarus: restriction of water pollution, increase in forest and protected natural areas, reduction of the sulfur dioxide pollution, ozone-damaging emissions, increase in use of pure engine in cars (despite the raising intensity of traffic), growth in energy saving of houses in the course of building, increase in use of

renewable energy.

The UNECE also turned its attention to the improvements in the area of public participation in the discussions of environmental impact assessment and in environmental education.



According to **Flightstats**, American information service, which monitors the accuracy of departure and arrival of flights around the world, in May 2016 Minsk National Airport became **the most punctual airport in Europe**.

Flightstats points that in May 2016 Minsk National Airport took 1688 flights. Only 5.49 % of flights were delayed. The average flight delay amounted to 32.4 minutes.

Trondheim Airport in Norway with 5.81 % of delayed flights took 2nd place in the ranking, Sheremetyevo Airport with 6.23% of late arrival held 3rd position.

Based on the results of 2015, Minsk National Airport took **19th** place out of European airports in the Flightstats ranking.

The airport took on time 88.89% of flights. Minsk National Airport became **71st** in the world.

Last year Minsk National Airport topped the ranking of European airports punctuality twice (in May and October).





According to online travel service **Travel.ru**, Minsk is inside the **top-3** most popular cities among Russians to travel in summer. Minsk is followed by Prague, Paris, Riga, Baku, Tallinn, Rome, Barcelona, Helsinki and London.

Minsk together with Baku is also the most affordable foreign capital for travelling in summer. London is the most expensive city.

