

ECONOMY

The leading economic weekly, ZYCIE GOSPODARCZE (May 28) follows up its earlier evaluation of the trends in the national economy during the first quarter of the year (c.f. Situation Report May 17) and contrasts them with the results obtained during April and the beginning of May.

It now appears that the earlier promising upward tendencies have lost the initial momentum particularly in the industrial sector. The sizeable increases in production both agricultural and industrial during the first quarter of this year were achieved largely by an unplanned for rise in employment and appreciable increase of payments from the wage fund. This in turn caused immediate fear of upsetting the market balance particularly since a greater than anticipated portion of the average earnings continues to be diverted by the population to purchases of durable consumer goods. While supplies of food produce on the whole remain satisfactory industrial production for home consumer needs prove to be inadequate. Already in March the regime once again resorted to the usual tightening of its financial policy. The overall effects of it have already been felt in April. Thus the global payment of wages which during the first quarter rose by 14.5% as compared with the corresponding period last year was brought down in April to 8%. Even more severely was the increase trimmed in industry and agriculture where payments in the wage fund were allowed to rise by not quite 5%. In turn the value of the global production in April suffered a set-back and increased only by 8% while during the first three months the increase amounted to 11.6% as

compared with the corresponding period last year. Moreover a slow-down was noted during April in State purchases of agricultural produce other than meat which continues to exceed appreciably the quotas reached last year. State purchases of agricultural produce which during the first quarter of this year went up by 16.6%, were in April only 5% greater than last year. Also the overall turnover in the retail trade showed in April a downward trend particularly because of lower sales of basic food produce. At the same time the demand for durable consumer goods remained high continuing the tendency noted in the first quarter of this year. As regards the various branches of heavy and light industry, it is shown that a number of them failed to fulfill the planned quotas for April. It is now hoped that the sudden production deficiency will be made up during May, particularly since the need to meet the demand for durable consumer goods both for export and the domestic market is beginning to be reorganized as the key solution for a more balanced economy.

#### LABOR

Zycie Warszawy, a popular Warsaw daily in a series of articles on worker's vacations brought to light the fact that for several years now the percentage of workers who spend their leave in State-run summer resorts is decreasing. While in 1954 workers constituted 46% of the total number of such vacationers the ratio is now down to a mere 20%. Apart from the fact that favoritism is rampant, the paper points out that the average worker is in fact reluctant to avail himself of the opportunity. Only in exceptional cases is he able to spend his leave together with the family. But even this proves to be a costly proposition since according to ZW a two-weeks stay in a State run pension costs 360 zloty per adult and 300 per child. Thus a family with three children must

must anticipate an expense of 1620 zloty plus fare 400 zloty, altogether over 2000 zloty. Since the average monthly take home pay is at best 2100 zloty, a two week vacation in a State resort leaves no cash balance in the family budget for the rest of the month. The paper offers no suggestion how to solve the problem except that trade unions and sociological institutes should undertake an investigation of the situation.

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Pouched: Press Survey - Please note articles "The Declaration of 'ZNAK': 'What is the Circle of Deputies ZNAK'? -Tygodnik Powszechny 28.5.61 and "The Network of Private Commerce and Services is Decreasing" - Slowo Powszechne 25.5.61.

Malachowski A: "Continuation (on the country's political situation in connection with the recent 'elections'") Przegląd Kulturalny 25.5.61

Brzechwa J.: "Life Made Easy (on technical progress - sarcastically) Express Wieczorny 19.5.61