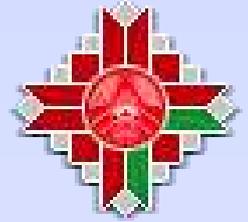


OCTOBER 2017

Belarus. International rankings



EDB improves GDP outlook for Belarus for 2017

In August 2017, the **Eurasian Development Bank** published the **EDB Macroreview** with the latest data on macroeconomic development of the EAEU Member States.

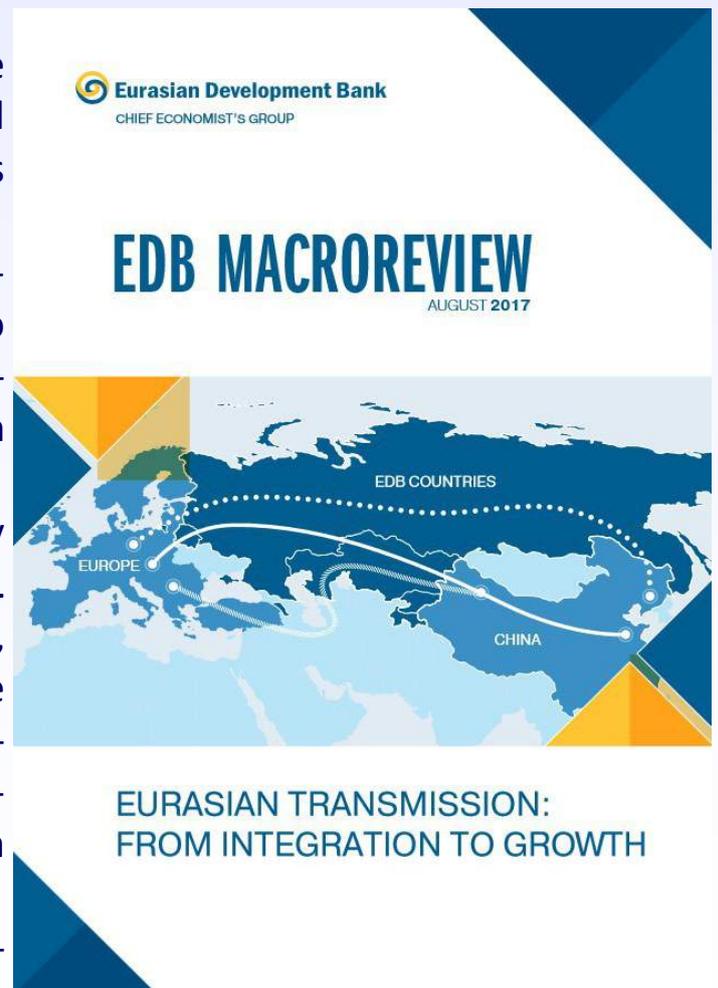
The recovery of economic growth in Belarus continues. Relative to the previous year, in January-May, **GDP growth** was **0.9%**. The increase of economic activity was also observed. It determined by the gradual restoration of external and internal demand against the backdrop of the ongoing easing of monetary conditions.

According to the EDB Macroreview, the foreign exchange market is stable and the price competitiveness of producers improves.

As at the beginning of July 2017, international reserve assets amounted to **6,561 million US dollars** with the increase of **1,544.9 million US dollars** in the second quarter.

Belarus runs budget surplus. In January-May 2017, the budget t amounted to **1 393.2 million rubles**, or **3.6% of GDP**, which is almost 2 times higher than the 2016 level and is determined by the increase in revenues for the reporting period by **9.6%** with the expenses growth by **0.1%**.

In general, the EDB improved the full-year GDP outlook for Belarus from **1.3% to 1.4%**.



Belarus takes 65th place in the rating of social progress

Belarus rises to **65th** place in the rating of social progress compiled by the **Social Progress Imperative** organization. Last year the country was on **66th** place. Experts have analyzed more than 50 indicators such as nutrition and basic medical care, access to drinking water, availability of habitation, health care, security, access to education and information, personal freedom, etc.



According to the rating, Belarus has a high level of religious tolerance, literacy and access to electricity.

Belarus has the best results in the following categories: access to basic knowledge (**5th place**), nutrition and basic medical care (**18th place**) and access to drinking water (**40th place**).

The first places in the general ranking are taken by Denmark, Finland and Norway. Our neighbors, Poland, Latvia and Lithuania are at 32nd, 34th and 35th places respectively. Ukraine ranks 64th place, Russia - 67th.

S&P Global Ratings raises the credit ratings of Belarus

S&P Global Ratings raises the long-term sovereign credit ratings of the Republic of Belarus from **B-** to **B**. The outlook is stable. Short-term ratings of Belarus are confirmed at **B level**.

The ratings are increased due to improvement of economic growth and secured external financing. The agency expects that in 2017-2020 the average GDP growth of Belarus will be **2% per year**.

S&P Global Ratings publishes financial research and analysis on stocks, bonds and commodities and belongs to TOP-3 most influential international rating agencies.

Belarus takes 36th place in the ranking of Best Countries for Women 2017

Belarus takes **36th** place in the rating of the best countries for women published by the **U.S. News & World Report** in collaboration with the **Wharton School of Business** and **BAV Consulting**.



During the study, data from **80 most developed countries** in the world were analyzed and more than nine thousand women were interviewed. Attention

was paid to gender equality, economic welfare, human rights, and the level of development and security.

The list is led by Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. The top ten also includes the Netherlands, Canada, Finland, Switzerland, Australia, Austria and New Zealand. Poland takes 20th place, Russia is on the 30th position, and Ukraine is on 52nd place.

Belarus takes 29th place in the rating of connection of households to the Internet.

Belarus takes **29th** place in the rating of households with the Internet, according to **The State of Broadband 2017: Broadband Catalyzing Sustainable Development** report (September, 2017). The report is compiled by the **Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development** and is based on data collected from 148 countries.

According to “Mobile Broadband Subscribers per 100 inhabitants”, Belarus takes **58th** position, written according to “Fixed broadband Subscribers per 100 inhabitants” our country is on **21st** place.

Belarus takes 69th place in Good Country Index-2017

Belarus takes **69th** place out of 163 countries in **Good Country Index-2017**. The rating shows what the national policy of each country brings to the welfare of the world. In comparison with the previous year, our country **rose by 10 positions** in the overall ranking.



Countries are ranked by 35 indicators in seven categories: science and technology, culture, international peace and security, world order, planet and climate, prosperity and equality, health and wellbeing. The largest contribution is made by our country in the categories “science and technology” (**37th** place) and “health and wellbeing” (**52nd**). In the categories “planet and climate”, “world order” and “world culture” Belarus is on **69th**, **75th** and **94th place** respectively.

Poland takes 25th place, Latvia – 41st, Lithuania – 45th, Ukraine – the 73rd, and Russia – 78th place .

Belarus takes 47th place in the ranking of countries with the largest gold reserves

Belarus strengthens its positions in the largest holders of TOP-100 gold reserves .

According to the rating compiled by the **World Gold Council**, our country occupies **47th** place in the world.



**WORLD
GOLD
COUNCIL**

The percentage of gold in the structure of forex reserves is **26.4%** (**47 tons** of gold).

Belarus gets into top 80 Best Countries for migration

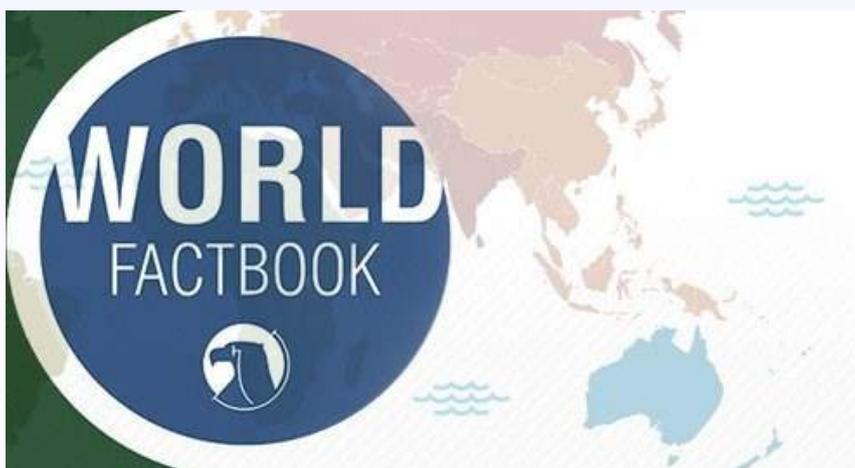
The **U.S. News & World Report** published a study of the best countries for migration, in which Belarus is on the **70th** position. When compiling the rating, specialists took into account the survey data of 21 thousand people from all regions of the world. Participants have assessed the economic situation of different countries, labor market, income equality and opportunities for integration of foreigners.

The list is led by Sweden, Canada, Switzerland, Norway, Finland and Denmark. Russia is on the 27th position, Poland is on 31st place, Latvia is on 60th place, and Ukraine is on 73rd place.

Belarus is included in the list of countries with the highest life expectations in the world

The **World Factbook** agency compiled the rating of 150 countries with the highest life expectations, in which Belarus took **116th** place. The average life expectations in our country is **72.5 years** (68.5 years among men, 77.5 years among women).

According to The World Factbook, the average lifetime in the world is 71 years.



Women live 73.5 years and men live 68.5 years.

Japan, Andorra and Singapore have the longest living citizens (84.6 years, 84.2 years and 84 years respectively). The shortest average lifetime is in India (65 years).

Poland takes 45th place in the rating (77.5 years), Lithuania takes 66th place (75.9 years), Latvia is 89th (74.5 years), Russia is 123rd (70.5 years), Ukraine is 138th (68 years old).

Belarus takes 117th place in World Giving Index

The **Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)** has published a new charity rating. The survey took into account the willingness of respondents to donate, volunteer and help strangers who found themselves in a difficult situation.



In 2017, Belarus took **117th** place out of 139. However, the results of Belarus are good in the regional context.

According to World Giving Index Ukraine takes 90th place, Poland is on 105th place, Russia is 124th, Latvia is on 131st position and Lithuania occupies 139th place.

Belarus in the UNDP report "HIV, Health and Development"

In August 2017, the **United Nations Development Program** published the **Annual Report on HIV, health and development**.



The results of Belarus on promoting **gender equality, empowering** women and girls, strengthening governance to **address NCDs** and accelerate **tobacco control** are highly assessed.

The report reflects the results of UNDP support of **127** countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 3 (good health and well-being).



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS IN BELARUS**

BSU rises to 334th place in the ranking of the best universities in the world

Belarusian State University takes 334th place in the ranking of world universities **QS World University Rankings 2018**. BSU ranks much higher than last year. This result is the best one in the history of the Belarusian State University. Over the past four years, BSU is gradually rising in the rating. In 2015-2016 it took places from 421 to 430 and was 354th in 2017.

BSU is on **172th** place according to professional achievements of alumni and on **15th** place according to the level of alumni employment.

The University of Warsaw is 401th-410th places. The University of Latvia remains in the group of universities occupying the 651th-700th places.



The top of the ranking is traditionally occupied by United States and Great Britain universities. For several years, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA) has retained the first place. It is followed by Stanford (USA) and Harvard (USA). Cambridge University (UK) moves to the fifth place, and the fourth place is taken by California University of Technology (USA). This year more than 900 universities were evaluated.

Belarus in the UNICEF “Early Moments Matter for Every Child Report”

In September 2017, **UNICEF** published **Early Moments Matter for Every Child Report**.

According to the study, in Belarus **less than 5%** of children under the age of five are left alone or in the care of another child younger than 10 years old for more than one hour at least once a week. According to this index, Belarus is ahead of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

In addition, Belarus has the best results among the CIS countries in the following categories: "**children who experience any cognitive or social-emotional caregiving activities from adult household members**" and "**children aged 36-59 months who have access to preschool education**".



Minsk takes 22nd place in the list of the sportiest cities in the world

Sportcal agency ranked Minsk **22nd** in the rating of sporty cities. The ranking took into account data about **610 cities** around the world.

Such high result is defined by the fact that many major international competitions are held in the Belarusian capital.



London is the sportiest city in the world for six years. It is followed by Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and Tokyo (Japan).

In the list of the sportiest nations, Belarus ranks 36th.

According to the Sportcal rating, Russia is on 3rd place, Poland is on 23rd, Latvia is on 44th, and Ukraine takes 71st place.

Minsk takes 55th place in the ranking of the cheapest cities for life

Minsk (index of 36.11) gets into the **Cost of Living Index** and takes **55th** place out of **511 cities**.

Every six months **Numbeo**, a project that collects data on various aspects of life in the countries around the world, compiles a rating of cities by the cost of living. The analysis takes into account the cost of rent, food, eating out, etc.

The cheapest cities are Thiruvananthapuram, Mangalore (India) and Alexandria (Egypt).

Zurich (Switzerland), Hamilton (Bermuda) and Zug (Switzerland) are the most expensive cities.

Minsk is No. 5 in the list of 30 great bargain city breaks

The Times announced the Belarusian capital one of the **best cities for weekend break**. Minsk is on the **5th** line in the list of 30 countries.

It is noted that UK residents who are going to travel to Belarus for a couple of days do not need a visa and one can perfectly spend time in Minsk for less than 250 pounds.

Belarus is the only CIS Member State on the list.

The logo for The Times newspaper, featuring the words "THE" and "TIMES" in a bold, serif font, with a royal coat of arms crest between them.

Belarus takes 3rd place in the list of the most popular countries for recreation among the Russians

Yandex.Money specialists have analyzed where Russian had spent their vacation this summer and how much they had spent during their trips.



Belarus takes **3rd** place in the rating. Turkey and Russia occupy first and second places respectively.

The lowest tourist average check is in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Three Belarusian ski resorts among top ten CIS winter destinations

Silichi, Logoisk and Yakutskiye Gory are among **top ten** CIS ski resorts according to the analytical agency **TurStat**.

The top three ski resorts in the CIS include Shymbulak (Kazakhstan), Shahdagh (Azerbaijan) and Silichi (Belarus). Logoisk is on 7th place and Yakutskiye Gory ranks 10th.

The ranking is based on the number of early online reservations for the winter season of 2017-2018.

ТурСтат

Minsk takes first place in the rating of popular cities in the CIS among Russian tourists

Analytical agency **TurStat** compiled a ranking of **popular cities within CIS countries among Russian tourists** (autumn 2017).

The rating of the CIS cities, which are popular among tourists, is **headed by Minsk**. It is followed by the capitals of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. The rating is based on the results of online booking systems data analysis. According to TurStat, this autumn tourists have spent in Minsk **2.5 days** and paid for accommodations **70 US dollars per day** in average.

Other popular CIS cities among tourists are Yerevan, Almaty, Tashkent, Ashgabat, Kiev, Chisinau and Bishkek.

The cheapest CIS cities are Bishkek and Chisinau, and the most expensive ones are Astana and Baku.

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