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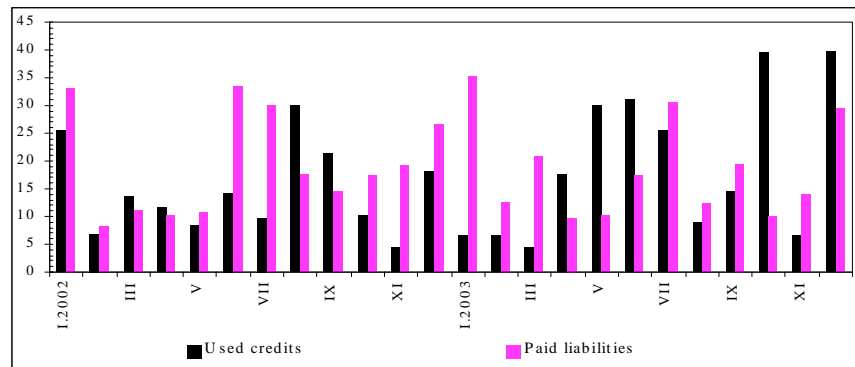
External debt¹⁶

Increase in the external debt on a monthly basis was registered given the positive exchange rate differential...

The external debt of the Republic of Macedonia based on long-term credits registered a monthly increase of US Dollar 50.6 million and equaled US Dollar 1,770.0 million at the end of December 2003. The increase in the external debt is influenced by the positive exchange rate differentials¹⁷ in the amount of US Dollar 37.1 million as well as by the higher amount of used than repaid funds.

In December, funds in the amount of US Dollar 39.8 million were withdrawn on the basis of granted long-term credits. The withdrawals from the official creditors equaled US Dollar 38.6 million, US Dollar 32.2 million of which originate from the multilateral creditors, such as: the third tranche of the Stand-by Arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the European Union (EU), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank (IBRD), the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) and the International Development Agency (IDA). Amount of US Dollar 6.4 million was withdrawn from bilateral creditors. The withdrawals from the private creditors amounted to US Dollar 1.2 million, out of which US Dollar 0.7 million from foreign banks and financial institutions. In December 2003, new credits in the amount of US Dollar 32.1 million were concluded, US Dollar 26.2 million of which are newly concluded credits with the multilateral creditors - the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). In December 2003, new credits in the amount of US Dollar 1.3 million and US Dollar 4.6 million were concluded with the bilateral and the private creditors, respectively.

Chart 33
Used credits and serviced liabilities
(in US Dollar million)



...and higher amount of used than repaid funds

In December the total amount of serviced liabilities on the basis of used foreign long-term credits equaled US Dollar 29.5 million, out of which US Dollar 18.7 million were repaid to private creditors, while US Dollar 10.8 million were repaid to the official creditors. Amount of US Dollar 26.0 million was repaid on the basis of principal and US Dollar 3.5 million were interest. In December 2003, the total amount of serviced liabilities based on concluded credits (US Dollar 234.2 million) was relatively harmonized with the amount of repaid funds (US Dollar 230.9 million), while on December 31, 2003, the external debt of the Republic of Macedonia on the basis of used long-term credits, according to preliminary data, was higher by 14.3% compared to the end of 2002.

¹⁶ Preliminary NBRM data. These data refer to the external debt of the Republic of Macedonia based on used medium-term and long-term credits

¹⁷ Positive exchange rate differentials act towards an increase in the external debt