

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA



NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

STATISTICAL REFERENCE BOOK 2024

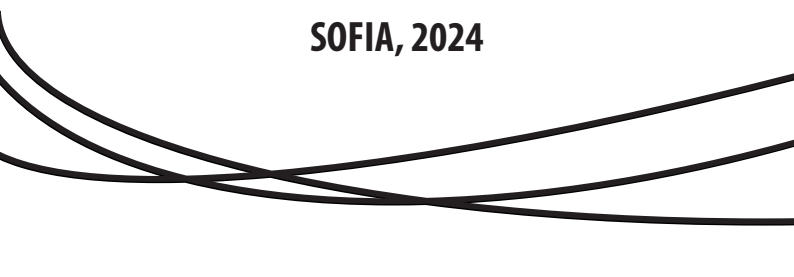


REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA



STATISTICAL REFERENCE BOOK 2024

SOFIA, 2024

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Dear users,

We would like to present to your attention the latest edition of the 'Statistical Reference Book 2024'. The publication contains statistical data for the period 2019 - 2023, with information from many areas of our daily life.

The data is provided in an accessible and convenient manner, in tables and graphs, divided into 24 thematic sections.

All groups of users can benefit from the presented data.

The gathered in the 'Statistical Reference Book 2024' information is the final product of the fruitful cooperation between the National Statistical Institute and our partners from the Bulgarian National Bank, the statistical authorities, Eurostat, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and other international organizations.

The provided statistical data is a valuable source of information when making decisions of public and social importance.

In its mission to provide accurate, clear and accessible information, the National Statistical Institute is guided by the principles of professional independence, impartiality, objectivity, reliability, statistical confidentiality and cost-effectiveness. In our work, we always strive to be innovative, adaptive to the new needs, open to cooperation, sustainable in our development and proactive in our activities.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the respondents and users for their commitment and involvement in the statistical activity. I am glad that we are working together for the development of the statistical science and practice in Bulgaria and for its popularization among the young people.

I would also like to express my great appreciation to all the colleagues, authors and experts for their high professionalism, hard work and efforts in the preparation of the 'Statistical Reference Book 2024'.

Assoc. Professor Atanas Atanasov, PhD

President of the National Statistical Institute

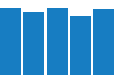


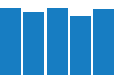
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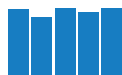
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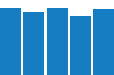
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*For information:
Data for 2023 are preliminary.*

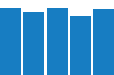


ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

BOP	=	Balance of Payments
BGL	=	Bulgarian Lev
BGN	=	Bulgarian New Lev
BNB	=	Bulgarian National Bank
CB	=	Commercial Bank
CN	=	Combined Nomenclature
CPI	=	Consumer Price Index
COICOP	=	Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose
CIF	=	cost, insurance, freight
CIS	=	Community of Independent States
cub. dm	=	cubic decimetre
cub. m	=	cubic metre
°C	=	degree Celsius
EC	=	European Community
EFTA	=	European Free Trade Association
EU	=	European Union
ESA	=	European System of Accounts
Eurostat	=	Statistical Office of the European Union
excl.	=	excluding
FISIM	=	Financial intermediation services indirectly measured
FAO	=	Food and Agriculture Organization
FOB	=	free on board
FDI	=	Foreign Direct Investments
FTE	=	Full-time equivalent
g	=	gram
GDP	=	Gross Domestic Product
GDPR	=	Regional Gross Domestic Product
GERD	=	Gross domestic expenditure on research and development
kgrt	=	gross registered ton
GVA	=	Gross Value Added
HICP	=	Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices
h.p.	=	horsepower
ha	=	hectare
HPa	=	Hecto Pascal



ICT	=	Information and communication technologies
ILO	=	International Labour Organization
IMF	=	International Monetary Fund
incl.	=	including
ISCED	=	International Standard Classification of Education
IW	=	Industrial waste
kcal	=	kilocalorie
kg	=	kilogram
km	=	kilometre
km/h	=	kilometre per hour
kW	=	kilowatt
kwa	=	kilowatt amper
kWh	=	kilowatt-hour
LFS	=	Labour force survey
LFSC	=	Law for the Family Support for Children
l	=	litre
LIPD	=	Law of Integration of the People with Disabilities
LPC	=	Law for Protection of the Child
LSS	=	Law for Social Support
m	=	metre
mill. (mln.)	=	million
mm	=	millimetre
MMFs	=	Monetary Market Funds
MOEW	=	Ministry of Environment and Water
NSI	=	National Statistical Institute
NUTS	=	Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics
NACE.BG	=	National Classification of Economic Activities
NIMH	=	National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology
NPCA	=	National Product Classification by Activities
NC	=	National currency
NPI	=	Non-profit institution
NPISHs	=	Non-profit Institutions serving household sector
NPP	=	Nuclear Power Plant
n.p.r.s.	=	not packaged for retail sale
num. (n)	=	number



OECD	=	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
pkm	=	passenger-kilometre
%	=	per cent
PC	=	Personal computer
PPPs	=	Purchasing power parities
PRODCOM.BG	=	National Nomenclature of Industrial Production
p.r.s.	=	packaged for retail sale
RES	=	Renewable Energy Sources
R&D	=	Research and development activity
SAD	=	Single Administrative Document
SITC	=	Standard International Trade Classification
SIC	=	Social Insurance Code
SNA	=	System of National Accounts
sq. km	=	square kilometre
sq. m	=	square metre
t	=	metric ton
tkm	=	ton-kilometre
TJ	=	terajoule
toe	=	tons oil equivalent
UAA	=	utilized agricultural area
UN	=	United Nations
UNESCO	=	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UDC	=	Universal Decimal Classification
USD	=	United States Dollar
UWWTP	=	Urban waste water treatment plant
VAT	=	Value Added Tax
WHO	=	World Health Organization
.	=	data not available
..	=	confidential data
-	=	figures not applicable
0	=	less than half of unit employed
*	=	preliminary data
x	=	category not applicable
()	=	due to a small figures in brackets are not reliable
#	=	break in series

I. GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES AND CLIMATE





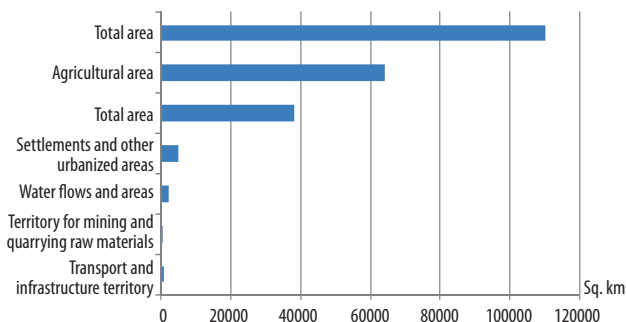
Territory and climate

The Republic of Bulgaria is situated on the Eastern Balkan Peninsula in Southeastern Europe, along the Black Sea. Total area is 110 371.9 sq. km (excl. the aquatory of the Danube river and Black Sea).

The climate of Bulgaria is temperate continental with a transition towards a subtropical climate in its Mediterranean version (in the southern parts of the country), with four seasons.

34% of the country's territory is covered with forests (non-coniferous and coniferous). The varied environment is a natural habitat for valuable animal species.

Figure 1. Territory of Bulgaria¹



¹Source: The Ministry of Agriculture - 'Balance of the Agricultural land as of 31.12.2011'.

1. Frontiers of Bulgaria¹

		(Kilometres)			
Frontiers		Total	Land	Rivers	Coastal
Total		2344	1246	720	378
Northern	- with Romania	628	139	489	-
Eastern	- with the Black Sea	378	-	-	378
Southern	- with Türkiye	274	143	131	-
	- with Greece	528	458	70	-
Western	- with Serbia	362	332	30	-
	- with the Republic of North Macedonia	174	174	-	-

¹Source: The Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency at the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works.



2. Meteorological data for 2023¹

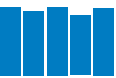
Meteorological stations	Annual average atmospheric pressure	Air temperature				
		Annual average	Annual absolute maximum temperature		Annual absolute minimum temperature	
	hPa	°C		Date	°C	Date
Vidin	1011.4	13.2	37.4	13.07	-12.7	10.02
Pleven	995.6	14.3	40.8	25.07	-11.5	10.02
Veliko Tarnovo	991.8	14.2	40.1	26.07	-13.0	10.02
Dobrich	991	13.2	38.6	26.07	-12.4	10.02
Varna	1010.7	14.8	34.6	20.08	-6.5	11.02
Burgas	1012.2	14.9	35.6	26.07	-5.3	11.02
Haskovo	987.8	14.7	40.9	26.07	-9.7	10.02
Kazanlak	968.7	12.7	38.2	26.07	-12.9	10.02
Pazardzhik	990.5	14.2	40.2	26.07	-10.7	11.02
Sofia - NIMH	946.8	12.2	37.9	25.07	-12.0	10.02
Kyustendil	954.2	12.7	38.6	25.07	-12.1	9.02
Cherni Vrah	771.2	2.1	22.6	25.07	-20.3	6.02
Sandanski	990.9	15.7	40.8	22.07	-6.7	10.02

2. Meteorological data for 2023¹

(Continued and end)

Meteorological stations	Average annual relative humidity	Maximum annual 24-hour precipitation		Annual amount precipitations	Average annual cloudiness
	%	mm	Date	mm	(0 - 10)
Vidin	75	37	13.06	561	5.4
Pleven	70	51	26.11	531	5.3
Veliko Tarnovo	70	59	26.11	699	5.8
Dobrich	71	56	26.11	571	5.6
Varna	73	34	26.11	419	5.5
Burgas	75	44	6.09	495	5.8
Haskovo	68	58	22.01	689	5.9
Kazanlak	71	33	18.05	564	5.6
Pazardzhik	67	37	16.12	372	5.2
Sofia - NIMH	70	58	15.06	639	5.6
Kyustendil	69	36	26.05	620	5.6
Cherni Vrah	82	26	2.06	664	6.5
Sandanski	64	35	4.11	498	5.3

¹ Source: National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology.



Rivers, lakes and mountains

The rivers are comparatively short and low-water. The longest river in Bulgaria is Iskar - 368 km long, while the river with the highest flow is Maritsa. The main rivers of Bulgaria are the Danube (470 km bordering Romania), Vit, Osam, Yantra (tributaries of the Danube), Tundzha, Kamchiya, Arda, Mesta and Struma.

60% of the total area is covered with hills and mountains. The mountains are part of the Alpine-Himalayan mountain chain situated on two continents - Europe and Asia. The mountains are accessible throughout the year and offer unlimited opportunities for entertainment, sports and tourism. The highest mountain in Bulgaria and in the Balkan Peninsula is Rila with its highest peak Musala (2 925 m of altitude).

3. Main rivers¹ and natural lakes² within the territory of Bulgaria

Rivers	Length - km	Lakes	Surface - sq. km
Iskar	352.3	Burgasko	27.6
Tundzha	328.4	Varnensko	17.4
Maritsa	309.0	Atanasovsko	16.9
Osam	204.6	Mandrensko	10.0
Struma	275.1	Pomoriysko ³	5.0
Yantra	222.0	Beloslavsko	3.9
Kamchia	190.7		
Arda	229.1		

¹ Source: National Institute of Meteorology and Hidrology.

² Source: The Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency at the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works.

³ Excl. salterns.



4. Mountains in Bulgaria, highest peaks and their altitude¹

Mountain	Peak	Altitude - m
Rila	Musala	2925
Pirin	Vihren	2914
Stara planina	Botev	2376
Vitosha	Cherni vrah	2290
Osogovska planina	Ruen	2251
Slavyanka	Gotsev vrah	2212
Rodopi	Golyam Perelik	2191
Belasitsa	Radomir	2029
Vlahina	Ogreyak	1924
Maleshevska planina	Ilyov vrah	1803
Karvav Kamak	Bilo	1737
Milevska planina	Milevets	1733
Ruy	Ruy	1706
Ograzhden	Bilska chuka	1643
Sredna Gora	Bogdan	1604
Lisets	Vrashnik	1500
Chudinska planina	Aramlia	1496
Konyavska planina	Viden	1487
Erulska planina	Golemi vrah	1481
Verila	Golyam Debelets	1415
Lyubash	Lyubash	1398
Strazha	Strazha	1389
Plana	Manastirishte	1338
Elovishka planina	Plocha	1329
Zemenska planina	Tichak	1295
Vidlich	Vuchibaba	1294
Lyulin	Dupevitsa	1256
Ezdimirska planina	Golemi vrah	1219
Stargach	Asenov vrah	1218
Lozenska planina	Popov del	1190
Penkyovska planina	Konski vrah	1187
Zavalska planina	Kitka	1181
Golo Bardo	Vetrushka	1158
Rudini	Banderata	1155
Cherna gora	Tumba	1129
Sakar	Vishegrad	856
Strandzha	Gradishte	710

¹ Source: The Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency at the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works.

II. POPULATION





Population and demographic processes

Survey objects of demographic statistics are the population and demographic events.

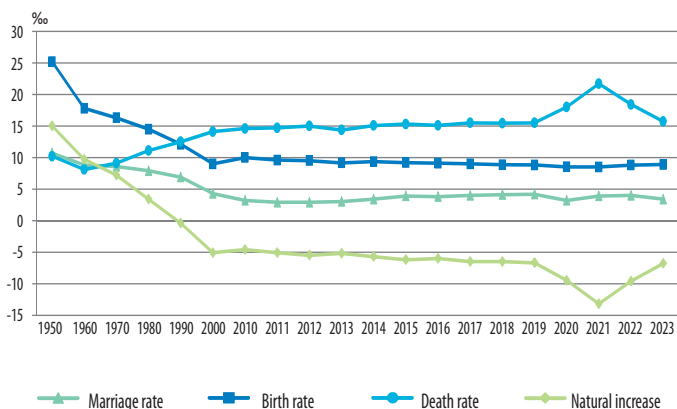
The population number and structures are calculated as of 31.12., based on the number and structures of population of the previous year and the demographic events (live births, deaths, immigrants and emigrants) registered during the year.

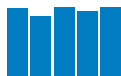
Demographic events include births, deaths, marriages, divorces and migration. They are registered at the moment of their occurrence during the reporting year.

Data source on vital events and migration is the Unified System for Civil Registration and Administrative Services of the Population.

In 2023 natural growth rate is -6.8 per 1000 population (-9.6‰ for 2022).

Figure 1. Marriage, birth and death rates and natural growth of the population





1. Main demographic indicators

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Population as of 31.12. - in thousands	6916.5	6838.9	6447.7	6445.5
Population density per sq. km	62.3	61.6	58.1	58.1
Gender ratio (women per 1000 men)	1065	1065	1080	1081
Age dependency ratio - %	56.7	56.7	60.4	61.0
Ageing index	99.6	98.7	99.4	100.3
Share of urban population - %	72.9	73.1	73.6	73.5
Crude birth rate - ‰	8.5	8.5	8.8	8.9
Crude death rate - ‰	18.0	21.7	18.4	15.7
Natural increase - ‰	-9.5	-13.2	-9.6	-6.8
Crude marriage rate - ‰	3.2	3.9	4.0	3.4
Infant mortality (per 1000 live births)	5.1	5.6	4.8	4.9
Net fertility rate	0.75	0.75	0.86	0.87
Total fertility rate	1.56	1.58	1.78	1.81

2. Population by census year¹

Census year	Total	Male	Female	Share of urban population - %
	In thousands			
1887	3154	1605	1549	18.8
1892	3311	1691	1620	19.7
1900	3744	1910	1834	19.8
1905	4036	2057	1979	19.6
1910	4338	2207	2131	19.1
1920	4847	2421	2426	19.9
1926	5479	2743	2736	20.6
1934	6078	3054	3024	21.4
1946	7029	3517	3512	24.7
1956	7614	3799	3815	33.6
1965	8228	4114	4114	46.5
1975	8728	4358	4370	58.0
1985	8949	4433	4516	64.8
1992	8487	4171	4316	67.2
2001	7929	3863	4066	69.0
2011	7365	3587	3778	72.5
2021	6520	3136	3384	73.4

¹ Up to 1956 - resident population, since 1965 - permanent population.



Age-sex structure

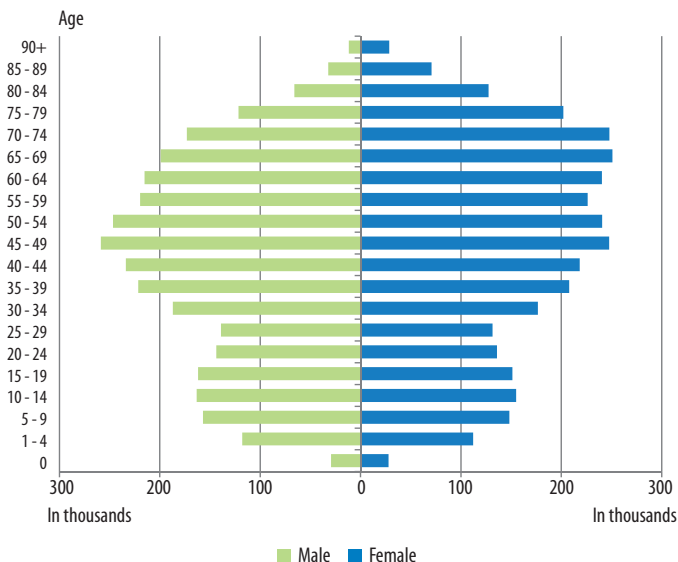
The population age structure is represented by distribution of the population by age groups. Population age is calculated in completed years as of 31.12. of the respective year.

By the end of 2023 the number of persons aged 65 and over is 1 530 909, or 23.8% of the country population. Compared to 2022, the share of population aged 65 and over increases by 0.3 percentage points.

As of 31.12.2023, children up to 15 years of age in the country are 911 025, or 14.1% of the total population number. The share of children up to 15 years decreases by 0.1 percentage points compared to 2022.

The population ageing during the years lead to increase of the population mean age. It has increased from 40.6 years in 2002 to 45.2 years at the end of 2023.

Figure 2. Population age-sex structure as of 31.12.2023





3. Population by age and gender as of 31.12.2023

Age	Total	Male	Female	Share of urban population - %
	Number			
Total	6445481	3097698	3347783	73.5
0 - 4	287271	147135	140136	74.9
5 - 9	305416	157070	148346	75.6
10 - 14	318338	163347	154991	74.7
15 - 19	313235	161945	151290	74.2
20 - 24	279466	143596	135870	75.6
25 - 29	270638	139114	131524	76.0
30 - 34	363731	187076	176655	76.7
35 - 39	429309	221413	207896	77.9
40 - 44	452069	233741	218328	77.2
45 - 49	506302	258668	247634	77.0
50 - 54	487228	246559	240669	74.3
55 - 59	445981	219685	226296	71.8
60 - 64	455588	215118	240470	70.9
65 - 69	450176	199137	251039	69.9
70 - 74	420925	172953	247972	69.1
75 - 79	323530	121543	201987	67.4
80 and over	336278	109598	226680	66.6

4. Structure of population by working age status and place of residence as of 31.12.¹

	(Per cent)			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under working age	15.4	15.5	15.2	15.2
Working age	59.8	60.1	58.5	58.5
Over working age	24.8	24.4	26.3	26.3
Urban	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under working age	15.9	16.0	15.4	15.5
Working age	61.2	61.4	60.1	59.9
Over working age	22.9	22.6	24.5	24.6
Rural	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under working age	14.0	14.1	14.4	14.3
Working age	56.1	56.5	54.4	54.6
Over working age	29.9	29.4	31.2	31.1

¹ Working age status according to the Pension Ordinance adopted by the Council of Ministers (Ordinance No. 30, State Gazette No. 21/17.03.2000).



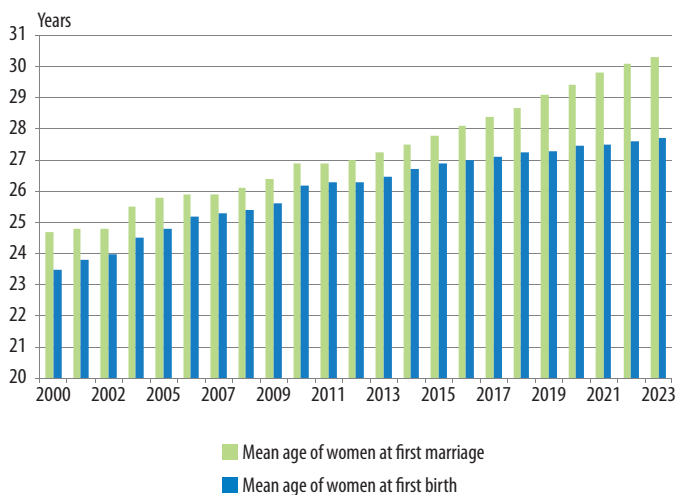
Births

Births include the number of live-born and stillborn children, and not the cases of giving a birth where one, two or more children could be born.

There are 57 478 births registered in 2023, of which 57 197 (99.5%) - live births. The crude birth rate (number of live births per 1000 population) is 8.9‰.

Total fertility rate (TFR) representing the average number of children that could be born by a woman during her fertile period is 1.81 children in 2023 and it increases with 0.03 compared to 2022.

Figure 3. Mean age of women at first marriage and first birth





5. Live births by mother's age and place of residence

(Number)

Place of residence Age	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	61538	59086	58678	56596	57197
Up to 15	253	215	257	248	231
15 - 19	5992	5755	5604	5521	5589
20 - 24	10247	9983	9984	9813	10206
25 - 29	17964	16486	15744	14637	14223
30 - 34	16889	16495	16780	15717	15588
35 - 39	7928	7857	8043	8265	8718
40 - 44	2024	1987	1959	1987	2166
45 - 49	213	272	267	345	423
50 and over	26	35	37	60	52
Unknown	2	1	3	3	1
Urban					
Total	45991	43829	43692	41986	42388
Up to 15	167	144	163	164	153
15 - 19	3334	3246	3103	3077	3179
20 - 24	6369	6103	6098	6011	6298
25 - 29	13451	12283	11705	10886	10580
30 - 34	14003	13451	13825	12822	12591
35 - 39	6686	6654	6843	6975	7336
40 - 44	1764	1671	1679	1686	1829
45 - 49	192	246	240	310	379
50 and over	23	30	35	52	42
Unknown	2	1	1	3	1
Rural					
Total	15547	15257	14986	14610	14809
Up to 15	86	71	94	84	78
15 - 19	2658	2509	2501	2444	2410
20 - 24	3878	3880	3886	3802	3908
25 - 29	4513	4203	4039	3751	3643
30 - 34	2886	3044	2955	2895	2997
35 - 39	1242	1203	1200	1290	1382
40 - 44	260	316	280	301	337
45 - 49	21	26	27	35	44
50 and over	3	5	2	8	10
Unknown	-	-	2	-	-



Mortality

The number of deaths includes the dead persons registered during the year.

Mortality level remains too high. Crude death rate (number of dead persons per 1 000 population) is 15.7‰ in 2023.

The infant mortality rate (number of children who die up to 1 year of age per 1 000 live births) is 4.9‰ in 2023 compared with 4.8‰ in 2022. The infant mortality in the last years is the lowest in the demographic development of the country, but continues to be higher than in other European countries.

Life expectancy showing the life expectancy of the new-born under the hypothesis that the age-specific mortality observed during the respective year will remain the same. According to preliminary data for the period 2021 - 2023, the life expectancy is 69.9 years for males and 77.3 years for females.

Figure 4. Crude death rate and infant mortality rate

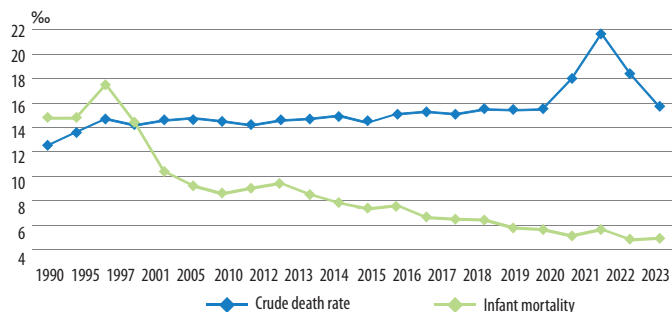
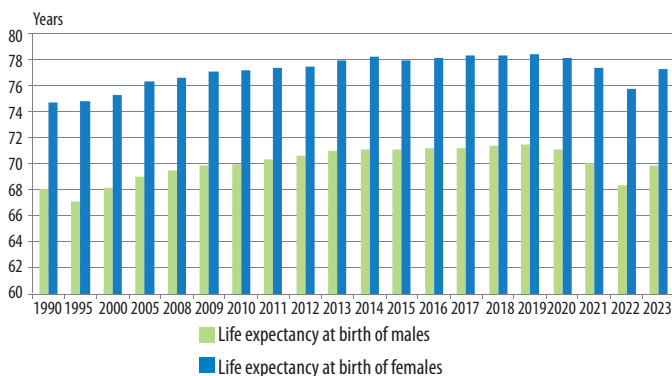


Figure 5. Life expectancy at birth





6. Deaths by age and place of residence

(Number)

Place of residence Age	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	108083	124735	148995	118814	101006
Up to 1	342	301	326	274	281
1 - 4	76	64	72	71	71
5 - 9	50	36	61	40	42
10 - 14	66	66	63	64	70
15 - 19	156	124	145	126	115
20 - 24	189	194	243	174	171
25 - 29	282	242	346	236	206
30 - 34	439	468	594	409	396
35 - 39	788	821	963	780	680
40 - 44	1301	1519	1710	1328	1131
45 - 49	2255	2554	3029	2270	2096
50 - 54	3174	3819	4709	3646	3223
55 - 59	5155	6153	7013	5192	4602
60 - 64	7922	9226	10945	8239	7215
65 - 69	11125	12852	15576	11800	10182
70 - 74	13822	17515	21825	16377	13594
75 - 79	14998	18001	22935	18090	15582
80 - 84	18150	20011	23514	18995	15733
85 and over	27793	30769	34926	30703	25616
Urban					
Total	68551	79952	96424	76261	65195
Up to 1	218	196	195	166	178
1 - 4	57	43	48	49	47
5 - 9	34	26	38	27	32
10 - 14	50	40	46	46	44
15 - 19	103	84	92	91	78
20 - 24	124	126	159	117	125
25 - 29	177	159	227	162	142
30 - 34	313	341	419	278	280
35 - 39	574	605	689	572	485
40 - 44	949	1067	1234	913	799
45 - 49	1570	1786	2124	1584	1429
50 - 54	2117	2589	3185	2442	2191
55 - 59	3489	4099	4680	3378	3010
60 - 64	5280	6185	7360	5367	4789
65 - 69	7371	8544	10421	7784	6660
70 - 74	8852	11320	14258	10678	8917
75 - 79	9126	11138	14408	11409	9916
80 - 84	10774	12303	14478	11599	9667
85 and over	17373	19301	22363	19599	16406
Rural					
Total	39532	44783	52571	42553	35811
Up to 1	124	105	131	108	103
1 - 4	19	21	24	22	24
5 - 9	16	10	23	13	10
10 - 14	16	26	17	18	26
15 - 19	53	40	53	35	37
20 - 24	65	68	84	57	46
25 - 29	105	83	119	74	64
30 - 34	126	127	175	131	116
35 - 39	214	216	274	208	195
40 - 44	352	452	476	415	332
45 - 49	685	768	905	686	667
50 - 54	1057	1230	1524	1204	1032
55 - 59	1666	2054	2333	1814	1592
60 - 64	2642	3041	3585	2872	2426
65 - 69	3754	4308	5155	4016	3522
70 - 74	4970	6195	7567	5699	4677
75 - 79	5872	6863	8527	6681	5666
80 - 84	7376	7708	9036	7396	6066
85 and over	10420	11468	12563	11104	9210



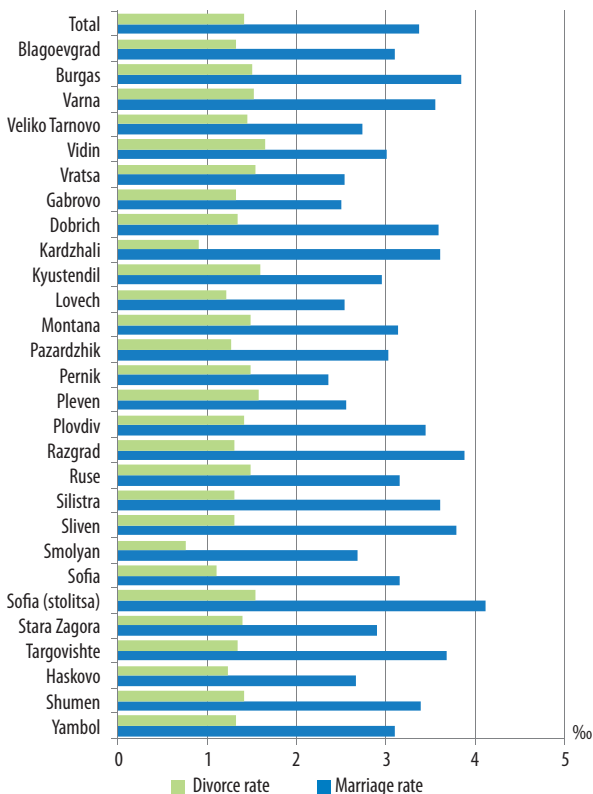
Marriages and divorces

In territorial aspect, marriages and divorces are referred to the settlement where the husband's present address is or in case his present address is abroad - to the settlement where the wife's present address is.

There are 21 800 juridical marriages registered in 2023, or 4 213 less than the previous year. The crude marriage rate (number of marriages per 1 000 population) in 2023 is 3.4‰, and in 2022 was 4.0‰.

The number of registered divorces in 2023 is 9 088 or 437 less than in 2022.

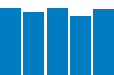
Figure 6. Marriages and divorces by districts in 2023





7. Marriages and divorces by statistical zone, statistical region and by district in 2023

Statistical zones, statistical regions and districts	Marriages	Divorces	Marriages	Divorces
	Number		Per 1 000 of the population	
Total	21800	9088	3.4	1.4
<i>Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>				
Severozapaden	1800	1001	2.7	1.5
Vidin	217	119	3.0	1.6
Vratsa	376	228	2.5	1.5
Lovech	286	137	2.5	1.2
Montana	362	172	3.1	1.5
Pleven	559	345	2.6	1.6
Severen tsentralen	2125	959	3.1	1.4
Veliko Tarnovo	556	295	2.7	1.5
Gabrovo	238	127	2.5	1.3
Razgrad	391	132	3.9	1.3
Ruse	596	281	3.2	1.5
Silistra	344	124	3.6	1.3
Severoiztochen	2925	1200	3.5	1.5
Varna	1535	663	3.5	1.5
Dobrich	528	197	3.6	1.3
Targovishte	353	128	3.7	1.3
Shumen	509	212	3.4	1.4
Yugoiztochen	3289	1344	3.5	1.4
Burgas	1467	571	3.8	1.5
Sliven	647	222	3.8	1.3
Stara Zagora	843	409	2.9	1.4
Yambol	332	142	3.1	1.3
<i>Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria</i>				
Yugozapaden	7477	2949	3.7	1.5
Blagoevgrad	892	381	3.1	1.3
Kyustendil	320	172	3.0	1.6
Pernik	262	165	2.4	1.5
Sofia	715	251	3.1	1.1
Sofia (stolitsa)	5288	1980	4.1	1.5
Yuzhen tsentralen	4184	1635	3.2	1.3
Kardzhali	523	130	3.6	0.9
Pazardzhik	684	286	3.0	1.3
Plovdiv	2177	893	3.4	1.4
Smolyan	249	70	2.7	0.8
Haskovo	551	256	2.7	1.2

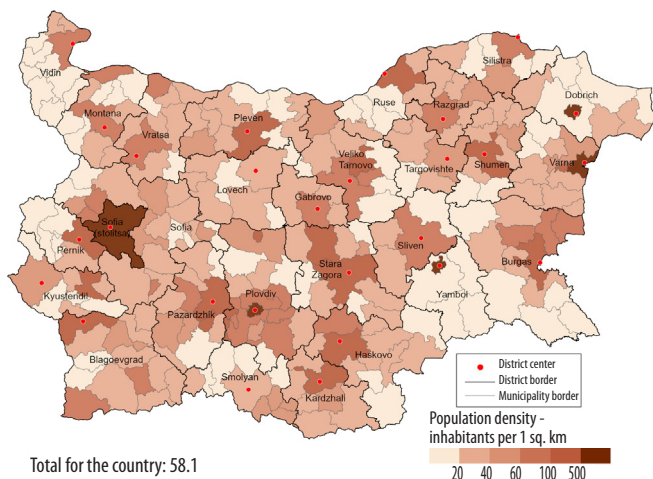


Population by districts

Data on the population number and demographic events at territorial level are provided in accordance with the administrative - territorial division of the country as of 31.12.2023.

Lowest is the number of population in district Vidin - 71 773 persons, or 1.1% of the country population, and highest in district Sofia (stolitsa) - 1 286 965 persons (20.0%). Four districts have population above 300 thousand persons and in three of them, Sofia (stolitsa), Plovdiv and Varna, lives more than 1/3 of the total country population (36.5%).

Figure 7. Population density as of 31.12.2023 by districts





8. Population by gender, place of residence, statistical zone, statistical region and by district as of 31.12.2023

(Number)

Statistical zones, statistical regions and districts	Total			Of which: Urban		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	6445481	3097698	3347783	4738461	2254254	2484207
<i>Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>						
Severozapaden	664024	320157	343867	420826	200562	220264
Vidin	71773	34399	37374	45193	21431	23762
Vratsa	147619	71442	76177	87204	41579	45625
Lovech	112225	54243	57982	69147	33154	35993
Montana	114526	55426	59100	72740	34832	37908
Pleven	217881	104647	113234	146542	69566	76976
Severen tsentralen	680359	325202	355157	452797	213822	238975
Veliko Tarnovo	202232	96500	105732	141139	66616	74523
Gabrovo	94862	44996	49866	75456	35509	39947
Razgrad	100696	48301	52395	47686	22349	25337
Ruse	187830	89757	98073	146332	69493	76839
Silistra	94739	45648	49091	42184	19855	22329
Severoiztochen	826134	397469	428665	614762	292576	322186
Varna	434191	208422	225769	365995	174488	191507
Dobrich	146635	70051	76584	102555	48377	54178
Targovishte	95609	46414	49195	53470	25439	28031
Shumen	149699	72582	77117	92742	44272	48470
Yugoiztochen	951167	457424	493743	685529	325836	359693
Burgas	384446	184318	200128	293857	139139	154718
Sliven	170051	82043	88008	110558	52534	58024
Stara Zagora	290350	139557	150793	206826	98636	108190
Yambol	106320	51506	54814	74288	35527	38761
<i>Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria</i>						
Yugozapaden	2019167	969467	1049700	1692622	807543	885079
Blagoevgrad	287077	138994	148083	172047	81900	90147
Kyustendil	107673	51739	55934	73604	35006	38598
Pernik	111032	53055	57977	86663	40997	45666
Sofia	226420	110670	115750	136133	65720	70413
Sofia (stolitsa)	1286965	615009	671956	1224175	583920	640255
Yuzhen tsentralen	1304630	627979	676651	871925	413915	458010
Kardzhali	146562	71946	74616	60318	28765	31553
Pazardzhik	225261	109526	115735	138512	66437	72075
Plovdiv	633586	302248	331338	472213	222935	249278
Smolyan	92107	44055	48052	52817	25128	27689
Haskovo	207114	100204	106910	148065	70650	77415

Fertility and mortality by districts

Highest is the crude birth rate in district Sliven and Sofia (stolitsa). In 2023 lowest is the crude birth rate in districts Pernik, Smolyan and Gabrovo. Montana, Gabrovo and Vidin are the districts with the highest crude death rate in 2023, while the lowest one is registered in district Sofia (stolitsa).

Figure 8. Crude birth rate by district in 2023
(Per 1 000 of population)

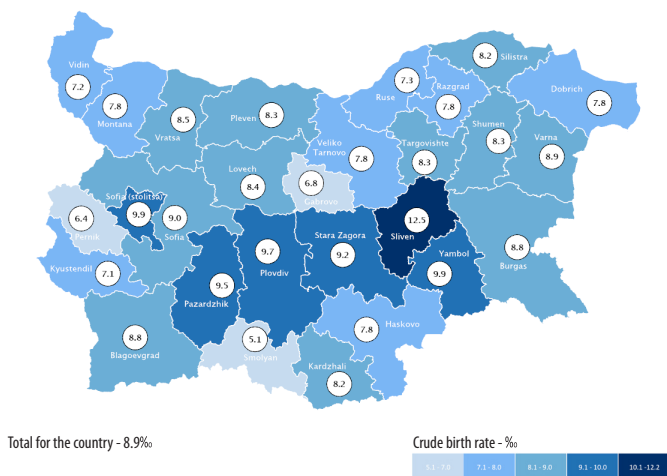
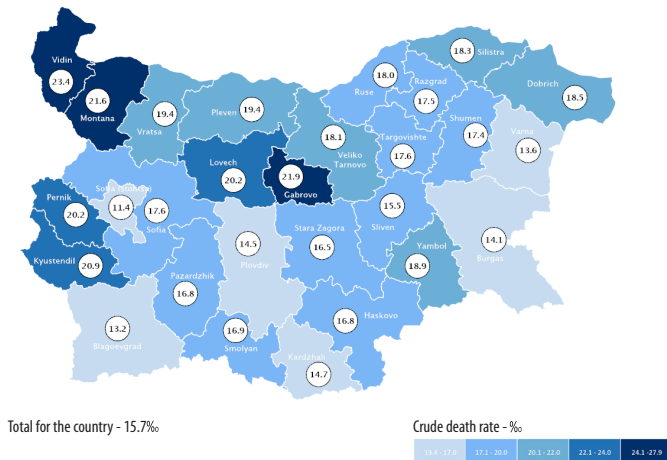


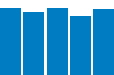
Figure 9. Crude death rate by district in 2023
(Per 1 000 of population)





9. Live births, deaths and natural increase of the population by statistical zone, statistical region and by district in 2023

Statistical zones, statistical regions and districts	Live births	Deaths	Natural increase	Live births	Deaths	Natural increase
	Number			Per 1 000 of the population		
Total	57197	101006	-43809	8.9	15.7	-6.8
<i>Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>						
Severozapaden	5436	13590	-8154	8.1	20.4	-12.3
Vidin	517	1690	-1173	7.2	23.4	-16.2
Vratsa	1265	2878	-1613	8.5	19.4	-10.9
Lovech	951	2275	-1324	8.4	20.2	-11.8
Montana	894	2497	-1603	7.8	21.6	-13.8
Pleven	1809	4250	-2441	8.3	19.4	-11.1
Severen tsentralen	5175	12681	-7506	7.6	18.6	-11.0
Veliko Tarnovo	1587	3681	-2094	7.8	18.1	-10.3
Gabrovo	650	2087	-1437	6.8	21.9	-15.1
Razgrad	783	1770	-987	7.8	17.5	-9.7
Ruse	1379	3406	-2027	7.3	18.0	-10.7
Silistra	776	1737	-961	8.2	18.3	-10.1
Severoiztochen	7039	12876	-5837	8.5	15.6	-7.1
Varna	3857	5864	-2007	8.9	13.6	-4.7
Dobrich	1145	2714	-1569	7.8	18.5	-10.7
Targovishte	800	1691	-891	8.3	17.6	-9.3
Shumen	1237	2607	-1370	8.3	17.4	-9.1
Yugoiztochen	9241	14855	-5614	9.7	15.6	-5.9
Burgas	3376	5375	-1999	8.8	14.1	-5.3
Sliven	2123	2648	-525	12.5	15.5	-3.0
Stara Zagora	2689	4815	-2126	9.2	16.5	-7.3
Yambol	1053	2017	-964	9.9	18.9	-9.0
<i>Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria</i>						
Yugozapaden	18766	26874	-8108	9.3	13.3	-4.0
Blagoevgrad	2530	3783	-1253	8.8	13.2	-4.4
Kyustendil	769	2259	-1490	7.1	20.9	-13.8
Pernik	716	2252	-1536	6.4	20.2	-13.8
Sofia	2043	4001	-1958	9.0	17.6	-8.6
Sofia (stolitsa)	12708	14579	-1871	9.9	11.4	-1.5
Yuzhen tsentralen	11540	20130	-8590	8.9	15.5	-6.6
Kardzhali	1191	2123	-932	8.2	14.7	-6.5
Pazardzhik	2143	3782	-1639	9.5	16.8	-7.3
Plovdiv	6118	9168	-3050	9.7	14.5	-4.8
Smolyan	471	1571	-1100	5.1	16.9	-11.8
Haskovo	1617	3486	-1869	7.8	16.8	-9.0



Migration of the population

Migration of the population includes all persons who have declared change of their present address within the country, or change of address in the country with an address abroad or vice versa.

There are twenty-three districts with a positive migration growth in 2023. Highest migration growth is registered in Kardzhali (34.5%), Burgas (20.6%) and Varna (12.3%). Highest population decrease due to the negative migration growth is registered in districts Smolyan (-4.5%), Yambol (-0.9%) and Montana (-0.3%).

Figure 10. Migration of the population by statistical regions in 2023

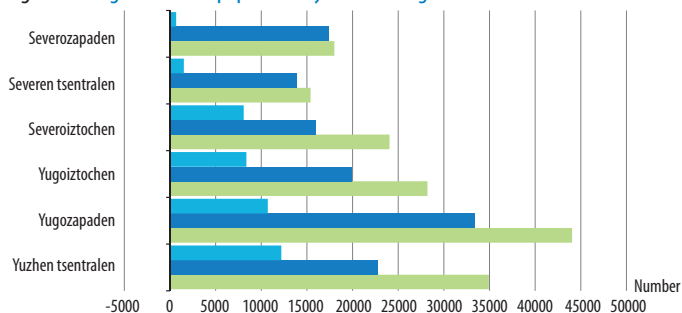
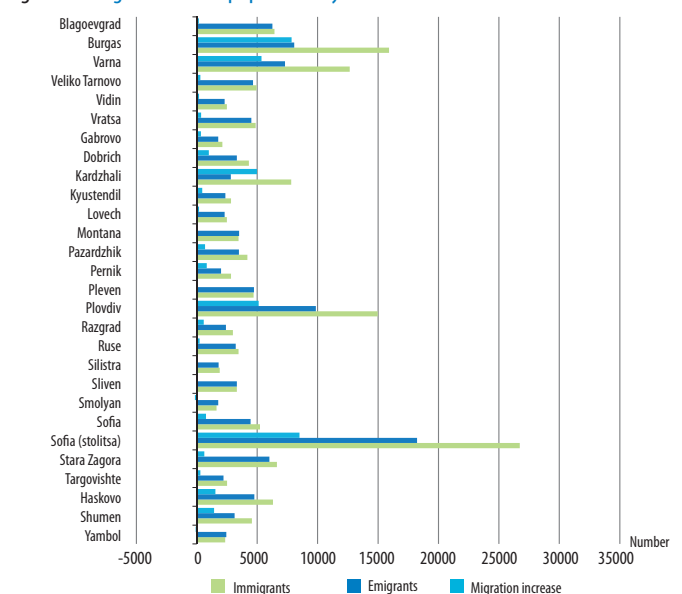


Figure 11. Migration of the population by districts in 2023



10. Migration of population by statistical zone, statistical region and by district in 2023¹

Statistical zones, statistical regions and districts	Immigrants	Emigrants	(Number) Migration increase
Total	164643	123063	41580
<i>Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>			
Severozapaden	18014	17338	676
Vidin	2493	2301	192
Vratsa	4867	4509	358
Lovech	2491	2298	193
Montana	3457	3500	-43
Pleven	4706	4730	-24
Severen tsentralen	15409	13878	1531
Veliko Tarnovo	4954	4661	293
Gabrovo	2118	1776	342
Razgrad	2989	2413	576
Ruse	3454	3220	234
Silistra	1894	1808	86
Severoiztochen	24046	15959	8087
Varna	12651	7300	5351
Dobrich	4316	3320	996
Targovishte	2513	2214	299
Shumen	4566	3125	1441
Yugoiztochen	28205	19834	8371
Burgas	15913	8064	7849
Sliven	3315	3322	-7
Stara Zagora	6627	6003	624
Yambol	2350	2445	-95
<i>Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria</i>			
Yugozapaden	44049	33328	10721
Blagoevgrad	6427	6258	169
Kyustendil	2827	2367	460
Pernik	2836	2014	822
Sofia	5229	4461	768
Sofia (stolitsa)	26730	18228	8502
Yuzhen tsentralen	34920	22726	12194
Kardzhali	7808	2822	4986
Pazardzhik	4187	3496	691
Plovdiv	14976	9856	5120
Smolyan	1637	1784	-147
Haskovo	6312	4768	1544

¹ Immigrants and emigrants in/to districts include also the movement to/from Bulgaria.

III. LABOUR MARKET



More information about breaks in time series and comparability of data from the Labour Force Survey could be found at NSI website, section Labour Market, Labour Force Survey, Annual data, Metadata and Methodology: <https://nsi.bg/en/content/4002/annual-data>.

Labour force

The labour force (the economically active population) consists of the persons, who furnish the supply of labour for the production of goods and services. The labour force comprises the employed and the unemployed persons.

The activity rate is the ratio between the economically active population and the total population (in the respective group).

The source of the data is the Labour Force Survey.

Figure 1. Structure of the labour force by age in 2023

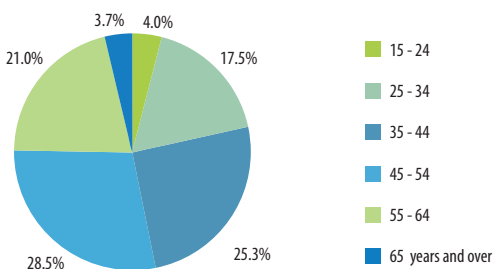
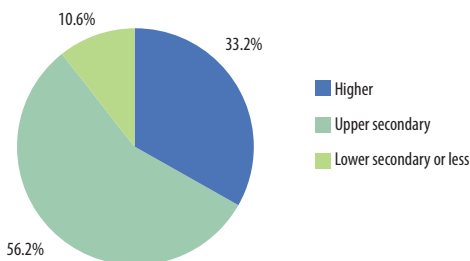


Figure 2. Structure of the labour force by level of education in 2023





1. Labour force

	(Thousands)				
	2019	2020	2021 ¹	2022 ²	2023
Total	3375.9	3290.3	3247.5	3067.8	3064.3
By place of residence					
Urban	2623.5	2532.1	2503.4	2381.8	2372.1
Rural	752.5	758.2	744.1	686.0	692.1
By gender					
Male	1814.3	1772.4	1744.2	1632.0	1625.1
Female	1561.6	1518.0	1503.3	1435.9	1439.1
By age					
15 - 64	3276.4	3190.4	3155.3	3067.8	2951.4
15 - 24	147.8	134.1	123.6	120.9	123.2
25 - 34	718.9	675.9	658.5	552.7	534.9
35 - 44	902.6	871.3	855.4	783.7	774.4
45 - 54	868.5	877.1	890.6	867.0	874.1
55 - 64	638.5	632.1	627.3	641.2	644.8
65 and over	99.6	99.9	92.2	102.4	112.9
By level of education					
Higher	1030.1	1053.4	1062.8	1000.6	1017.8
Upper secondary	1895.4	1830.5	1800.1	1722.8	1722.6
of which: Vocational	1102.3	1063.3	1020.5	972.3	980.3
Lower secondary or less	450.4	406.5	384.6	344.5	323.9

2. Activity rates (age group 15 - 64)

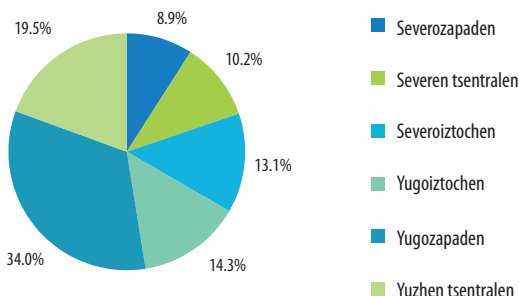
	(Per cent)				
	2019	2020	2021 ¹	2022 ²	2023
Total	73.2	72.2	72.0	73.7	73.9
By place of residence					
Urban	75.5	74.4	74.5	76.1	76.2
Rural	66.4	65.9	64.6	66.4	67.0
By gender					
Male	77.6	76.8	76.2	77.4	77.3
Female	68.7	67.6	67.7	70.0	70.4
By age					
15 - 24	23.9	21.9	20.0	21.7	21.4
25 - 34	81.2	79.3	80.0	81.6	82.6
35 - 44	88.1	86.8	86.1	87.6	87.9
45 - 54	87.6	87.2	86.9	87.8	88.0
55 - 64	66.9	67.1	67.9	70.8	72.1

¹ Break in series due to change in the methodology.² Break in series due to use of population estimates based on 2021 Population Census.

Labour force by district

The labour force (the economically active population) aged 15 - 64 and the activity rates for the same age group are presented by statistical regions in accordance with the Classification of Territorial Units for Statistical Purposes in Bulgaria in force since 14 February 2009, harmonized with the European Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS), and by districts.

Figure 3. Structure of the labour force (age group 15 - 64) by statistical region in 2023





3. Labour force (15 - 64 years of age) and activity rates by statistical zone, statistical region and by district in 2023

Statistical zones, statistical regions and districts	Labour force - in thousands	Activity rates - %
Total	2951.4	73.9
<i>Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>		
Severozapaden	264.1	67.1
Vidin	28.8	69.7
Vratsa	59.3	65.7
Lovech	43.1	65.8
Montana	44.0	64.7
Pleven	88.8	69.3
Severen tsentralen	301.4	73.5
Veliko Tarnovo	92.0	75.8
Gabrovo	43.0	77.6
Razgrad	42.6	68.3
Ruse	86.0	75.0
Silistra	37.8	67.0
Severoiztochen	386.9	75.4
Varna	211.1	77.1
Dobrich	61.8	69.7
Targovishte	42.6	72.4
Shumen	71.3	77.5
Yugoiztochen	420.7	73.2
Burgas	171.5	72.5
Sliven	69.8	70.0
Stara Zagora	133.2	75.7
Yambol	46.3	74.4
<i>Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria</i>		
Yugozapaden	1003.0	77.3
Blagoevgrad	136.7	74.7
Kyustendil	47.9	74.7
Pernik	52.9	77.7
Sofia	103.2	73.5
Sofia (stolitsa)	662.3	78.7
Yuzhen tsentralen	575.3	71.6
Kardzhali	59.5	67.7
Pazardzhik	100.9	72.5
Plovdiv	288.1	72.8
Smolyan	42.5	75.1
Haskovo	84.3	67.8



Employment

Employed persons are persons 15 - 89 years of age who during the reference period:

- performed some work for at least one hour for pay in cash or in kind or other income;
- did not work but had a job or an enterprise, a business from which they were temporarily absent due to following reasons:
 - holidays, illness, maternity or paternity leave, working time arrangement;
 - participation in job-related training;
 - off-season, where persons continue regularly to perform tasks and duties for the job or business, excluding fulfilment of legal or administrative obligations;
 - other absence (incl. unpaid parental leave for taking care of a child between 2 and 8 years of age), where the expected duration of this absence is 3 month or less.

Persons that produce agricultural goods are considered employed if the main part of these products is intended for sale or barter.

Employers are the persons who by themselves or in co-operation with other people manage their own enterprise, business, farm, professional practice or perform independently other work, and employ at least one other person.

Self-employed are the persons who by themselves or in co-operation with other people work in their own enterprise, business, farm, professional practice or perform independently other work, and do not employ any other person.

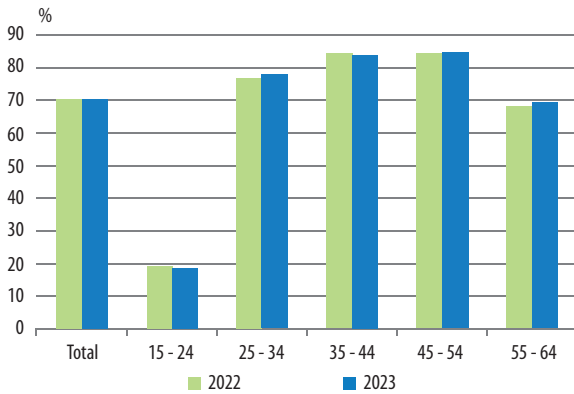
Employees are the persons who work for a public or private employer and who receive a consideration in cash or in kind in the form of wages, salaries, fees, remuneration by civil contract, etc.

Unpaid family workers are the persons who work without pay in a firm, enterprise or farm, owned and operated by a family member.

The employment rate is the ratio between the employed population and the total population (in the respective group). The source of the data is the Labour Force Survey.



Figure 4. Employment rates (age group 15 - 64) by age



4. Employed persons

	(Thousands)				
	2019	2020	2021 ¹	2022 ²	2023
Total	3233.1	3121.7	3076.5	2940.6	2931.9
By place of residence					
Urban	2539.2	2429.4	2397.5	2302.8	2289.5
Rural	693.9	692.3	679.0	637.8	642.4
By gender					
Male	1732.1	1676.1	1648.7	1561.1	1553.5
Female	1501.1	1445.6	1427.8	1379.5	1378.4
By age					
15 - 64	3136.3	3024.3	2986.7	2840.7	2821.7
15 - 24	134.6	115.0	104.0	108.0	108.3
25 - 34	679.1	634.7	617.2	522.6	506.0
35 - 44	867.4	828.9	815.7	756.4	741.7
45 - 54	841.3	840.7	851.0	835.1	843.9
55 - 64	613.9	605.1	598.8	618.7	621.8
65 and over	96.8	97.4	89.8	99.9	110.2
By level of education					
Higher	1010.5	1027.5	1041.9	984.8	998.7
Upper secondary	1831.2	1744.3	1711.6	1655.0	1651.4
of which: Vocational	1063.4	1013.6	975.2	937.0	944.2
Lower secondary or less	391.4	349.9	322.9	300.8	281.8
By professional status					
Employers	114.7	112.0	113.3	114.8	119.6
Self-employed without employees	215.3	214.7	207.5	199.2	198.1
Employees in private sector	2198.9	2090.8	2080.1	2012.4	2003.2
Employees in public sector	684.2	685.3	658.0	599.0	597.6
Unpaid family workers	20.0	18.9	17.5	15.1	13.4

¹ Break in series due to change in the methodology.

² Break in series due to use of population estimates based on 2021 Population Census.



5. Employment rates (age group 15 - 64)

	(Per cent)				
	2019	2020	2021 ¹	2022 ²	2023
Total	70.1	68.5	68.1	70.6	70.7
By place of residence					
Urban	73.0	71.3	71.3	73.6	73.5
Rural	61.2	60.1	58.8	61.7	62.1
By gender					
Male	74.1	72.5	72.0	74.0	73.9
Female	66.0	64.3	64.2	67.2	67.4
By age					
15 - 24	21.8	18.8	16.8	19.4	18.8
25 - 34	76.7	74.4	75.0	77.1	78.2
35 - 44	84.7	82.6	82.1	84.6	84.2
45 - 54	84.8	83.6	83.1	84.6	85.0
55 - 64	64.4	64.2	64.8	68.3	69.5

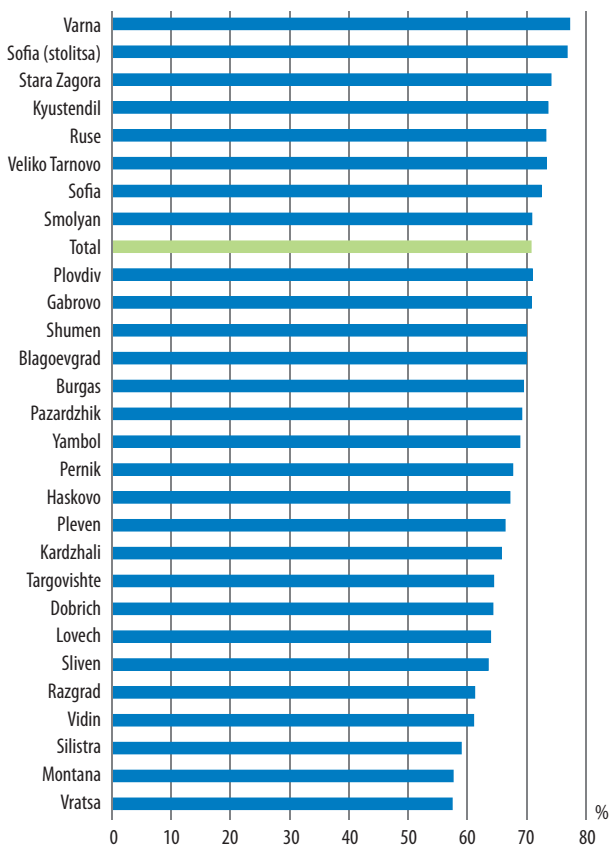
¹ Break in series due to change in the methodology.

² Break in series due to use of population estimates based on 2021 Population Census.

Employment by district

The employed persons aged 15 - 64 and the employment rates for the same age group are presented by statistical regions in accordance with the Classification of Territorial Units for Statistical Purposes in Bulgaria in force since 14 February 2009, harmonized with the European Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS), and by districts.

Figure 5. **Employment rates (age group 15 - 64) by districts in 2023**





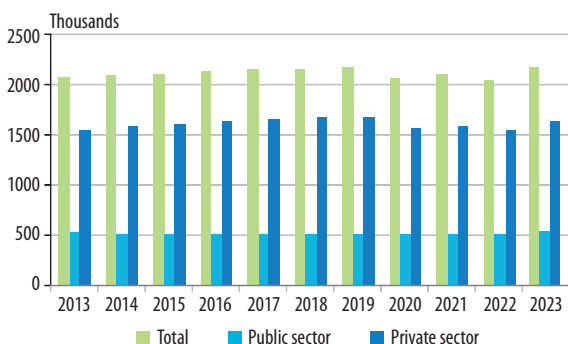
6. Employed persons (15 - 64 years of age) and employment rates by statistical zone, statistical region and by district in 2023

Statistical zones, statistical regions and districts	Employed - in thousands	Employment rates - %
Total	2821.7	70.7
<i>Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>		
Severozapaden	242.9	61.7
Vidin	25.1	60.7
Vratsa	51.7	57.3
Lovech	41.8	63.7
Montana	39.1	57.5
Pleven	85.1	66.5
Severen tsentralen	283.3	69.0
Veliko Tarnovo	88.7	73.1
Gabrovo	39.0	70.5
Razgrad	38.3	61.3
Ruse	84.1	73.3
Silistra	33.2	58.8
Severoiztochen	369.6	72.0
Varna	210.7	77.0
Dobrich	56.7	63.9
Targovishte	37.8	64.2
Shumen	64.5	70.1
Yugoiztochen	401.2	69.8
Burgas	164.8	69.7
Sliven	63.5	63.7
Stara Zagora	130.1	73.9
Yambol	42.8	68.8
<i>Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria</i>		
Yugozapaden	967.5	74.6
Blagoevgrad	128.2	70.0
Kyustendil	47.1	73.5
Pernik	46.1	67.8
Sofia	102.0	72.6
Sofia (stolitsa)	644.1	76.5
Yuzhen tsentralen	557.2	69.4
Kardzhali	57.9	65.9
Pazardzhik	95.8	68.9
Plovdiv	279.7	70.7
Smolyan	40.1	70.8
Haskovo	83.7	67.3

Employees

Employees are all persons who have a labour contract with their employer by virtue of the Labour Code or the Civil Servants Act and who receive remuneration in cash or in kind for certain quality and quantity of work done. The average annual number of employees under labour contract is the arithmetic mean value of the average monthly number of employees. The average monthly number of employees is the arithmetic mean value of the daily number of employees (sum of the daily number of employees divided by the number of days of the reference month).

Figure 6. Average annual number of employees under labour contract by type of ownership



7. Employees under labour contract by economic activity groupings

Economic activity groupings	(Average annual number)					
	Total		Public sector		Private sector	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Total	2278832	2218004	545083	548058	1733749	1669946
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	65682	65426	10979	10947	54703	54479
Mining and quarrying	18446	18689	6825	6864	11621	11825
Manufacture of food products, beverages and tobacco products	81256	81063	..	..	..	..
Manufacture of textiles, wearing apparel, leather and related products	74865	71696	231	224	74634	71472
Manufacture of wood and paper products, and printing	28555	27673	111	121	28444	27552
Manufacture of coke, and refined petroleum products	2366	2385	-	-	2366	2385



7. Employees under labour contract by economic activity groupings

(Continued and end)

(Average annual number)

Economic activity groupings	Total		Public sector		Private sector	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	13570	13551	-	-	13570	13551
Manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical and botanical products	7529	7547	..	..	..	..
Manufacture of rubber and plastics products, and other non-metallic mineral products	50146	48838	..	..	..	..
Manufacture of basic metals and fabricated metal products, except machinery	61834	62951	..	..	..	..
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	10140	10384	..	..	..	..
Manufacture of electrical equipment	25594	25118	-	-	25594	25118
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	32696	31443	-	-	32696	31443
Manufacture of transport equipment	31474	31893	-	-	31474	31893
Other manufacturing, and repair and installation of machinery and equipment	44113	39358	950	838	43163	38520
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	29303	28727	13948	13874	15355	14853
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation	36645	36047	22168	22140	14477	13907
Construction	127698	119467	2174	2131	125524	117336
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	373721	371936	341	271	373380	371665
Transportation and storage	144838	136719	41842	41075	102996	95644
Accommodation and food service activities	106599	94171	3733	3924	102866	90247
Publishing, audiovisual and broadcasting activities	11212	10886	2671	2799	8541	8087
Telecommunications	17964	17482	..	..	..	..
IT and other information services	94732	91988	..	..	..	..
Financial and insurance activities	55103	52793	1560	1370	53543	51423
Real estate activities	22313	20489	2394	2678	19919	17811
Legal, accounting, management, architecture and engineering and similar activities	46566	43325	947	913	45619	42412
Scientific research and development	12525	12806	8101	8048	4424	4758
Other professional, scientific and technical activities	26416	24253	146	95	26270	24158
Administrative and support service activities	114196	107528	19193	17155	95003	90373
Public administration and defence, compulsory social security	112221	112437	112221	112437	x	x
Education	165497	164445	155187	154126	10310	10319
Human health services	110921	108807	70929	69158	39992	39649
Residential care and social work activities	50522	58043	47070	54889	3452	3154
Arts, entertainment and recreation	34753	34731	14536	14520	20217	20211
Other services	36821	32909	1210	1256	35611	31653

Unemployment

Unemployed persons are persons 15 - 74 years of age who were not employed during the reference week, and

- were currently available for work, i.e., were available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the 2 weeks following the reference week; and
- were actively seeking work in the four-week period ending with the reference week or found a job to start within a period of at most 3 months from the end of the reference week.

The duration of unemployment is defined by the shorter of the following two periods:

- the duration of looking for a job; or
- the length of time passed since last employment.

The source of the data (excluding data on registered unemployment) is the Labour Force Survey.

The source of the data on the unemployed persons registered at the Labour Offices is the National Employment Agency.

Figure 7. Unemployment rates by sex and age in 2023

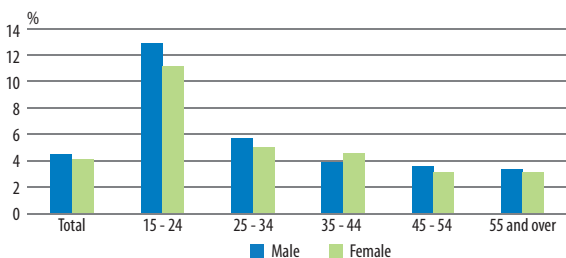
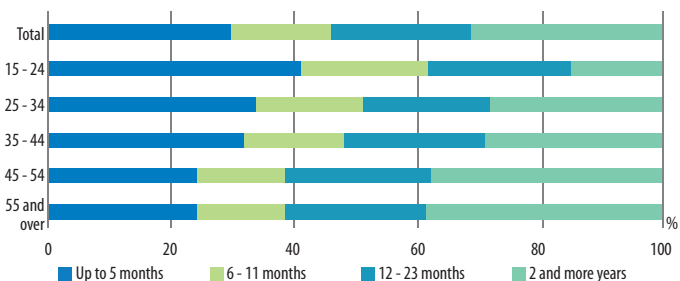


Figure 8. Structure of unemployed persons by age and duration of unemployment in 2023



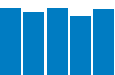


8. Unemployed persons

(Thousands)

	2019	2020	2021 ¹	2022 ²	2023
Total	142.8	168.6	171.1	127.3	132.4
By place of residence					
Urban	84.2	102.7	105.9	79.0	82.6
Rural	58.6	65.9	65.1	48.2	49.8
By gender					
Male	82.3	96.3	95.5	70.8	71.7
Female	60.5	72.3	75.6	56.4	60.7
By age					
15 - 64	140.1	166.1	168.6	124.7	129.7
15 - 24	13.1	19.1	19.6	12.8	14.9
25 - 34	39.8	41.2	41.2	30.1	28.9
35 - 44	35.3	42.4	39.8	27.3	32.8
45 - 54	27.2	36.4	39.6	31.9	30.2
55 and over	27.3	29.6	30.9	25.1	25.6
By level of education					
Higher	19.6	25.9	20.9	15.8	19.1
Upper secondary	64.2	86.2	88.5	67.8	71.2
of which: Vocational	39.0	49.6	45.3	35.2	36.0
Lower secondary or less	58.9	56.5	61.7	43.7	42.1
By duration of unemployment					
Up to 5 months	43.0	63.9	53.4	38.2	40.8
6 - 11 months	18.9	28.8	33.0	20.2	22.3
12 - 23 months	26.1	27.1	37.9	28.9	27.3
2 years and over	54.9	48.8	46.7	39.9	42.0
Unemployed registered at the Labour offices as of 31.12.	194.7	220.3	157.3	153.9	158.2

¹ Break in series due to change in the methodology.² Break in series due to use of population estimates based on 2021 Population Census.



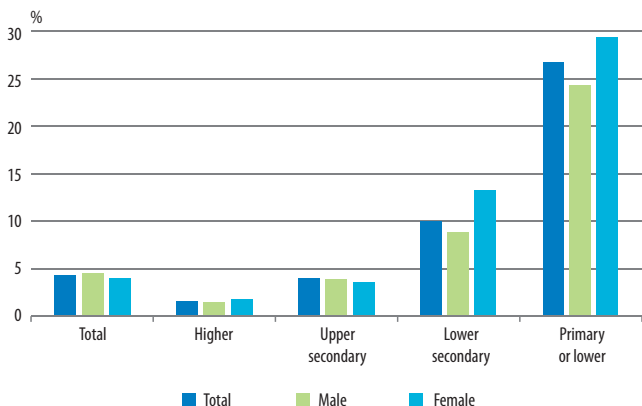
Unemployment

The unemployment rate is the ratio between the unemployed persons and the economically active population (the labour force).

The long-term unemployment rate is the ratio between the number of the long-term unemployed persons (unemployed for one or more years) and the economically active population.

Discouraged persons are the persons aged 15 - 74 years, who are not in the labour force (economically inactive population) and who want to work, but who do not actively look for a job, because they do not believe they will find suitable job.

Figure 9. Unemployment rates by level of education in 2023





9. Unemployment rates

(Per cent)

	2019	2020	2021 ¹	2022 ²	2023
Total	4.2	5.1	5.3	4.1	4.3
By place of residence					
Urban	3.2	4.1	4.2	3.3	3.5
Rural	7.8	8.7	8.8	7.0	7.2
By gender					
Male	4.5	5.4	5.5	4.3	4.4
Female	3.9	4.8	5.0	3.9	4.2
By age					
15 - 64	4.3	5.2	5.3	4.2	4.4
15 - 24	8.9	14.2	15.8	10.6	12.1
25 - 34	5.5	6.1	6.3	5.4	5.4
35 - 44	3.9	4.9	4.6	3.5	4.2
45 - 54	3.1	4.1	4.4	3.7	3.5
55 and over	3.7	4.0	4.3	3.4	3.4
Long-term unemployment rate	2.4	2.3	2.6	2.2	2.3

10. Discouraged persons

(Thousands)

	2019	2020	2021 ¹	2022 ²	2023
Total	63.8	63.9	59.7	48.8	38.3
By place of residence					
Urban	32.1	33.0	29.3	24.0	16.9
Rural	31.7	30.9	30.4	24.8	21.4
By gender					
Male	33.1	33.9	33.1	24.4	22.0
Female	30.7	30.0	26.5	24.3	16.3
By age					
15 - 64	61.7	61.7	57.2	46.9	37.0
15 - 24	10.9	9.9	9.7	7.0	7.1
25 - 34	11.4	13.7	13.5	10.0	8.1
35 - 44	13.8	12.0	12.8	9.9	5.9
45 - 54	11.7	13.6	11.4	11.3	8.1
55 and over	16.0	14.7	12.2	10.7	9.0
By level of education					
Higher	(2.6)	(2.5)	(2.9)	(2.2)	(1.4)
Upper secondary	17.7	18.8	18.1	16.9	15.1
of which: Vocational	9.0	9.6	9.0	7.7	6.7
Lower secondary or less	43.6	42.7	38.7	29.7	21.8

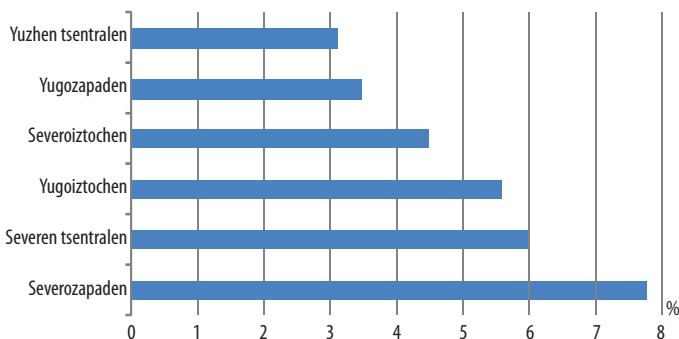
¹ Break in series due to change in the methodology.² Break in series due to use of population estimates based on 2021 Population Census.

Unemployment by district

The unemployed persons and the unemployment rates are presented by statistical regions in accordance with the Classification of Territorial Units for Statistical Purposes in Bulgaria, in force since 14 February 2009, harmonized with the European Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS), and by districts.

The source of the data on the unemployed persons registered at the Labour Offices is the National Employment Agency.

Figure 10. Unemployed rate by statistical regions in 2023





11. Unemployment by statistical zone, statistical region and by district in 2023

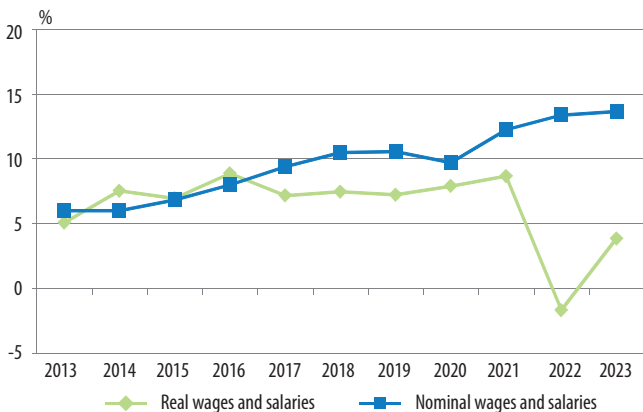
Statistical zones, statistical regions and districts	Unemployed - in thousands	Unemployment rates - %	Unemployed registered at the Labour offices as of 31.12. - in thousands
Total	132.4	4.3	158.2
<i>Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>			
Severozapaden	21.5	7.8	20.8
Vidin	3.7	12.4	4.1
Vratsa	7.7	12.4	6.6
Lovech	(1.3)	(3.0)	4.0
Montana	5.0	10.8	6.0
Pleven	3.7	4.0	6.9
Severen tsentralen	18.6	6.0	19.6
Veliko Tarnovo	3.4	3.6	4.9
Gabrovo	4.0	9.0	1.7
Razgrad	4.5	10.2	4.0
Ruse	(1.9)	(2.2)	4.8
Silistra	4.7	11.9	4.0
Severoiztochen	17.9	4.5	21.5
Varna	(0.5)	(0.2)	7.1
Dobrich	5.4	8.2	3.4
Targovishte	5.0	11.4	4.2
Shumen	7.1	9.4	6.8
Yugoiztochen	20.1	4.6	21.0
Burgas	6.9	3.9	8.7
Sliven	6.5	8.9	4.8
Stara Zagora	3.1	2.3	5.2
Yambol	3.6	7.3	2.3
<i>Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria</i>			
Yugozapaden	35.8	3.5	33.5
Blagoevgrad	8.5	6.1	13.1
Kyustendil	(0.8)	(1.6)	3.2
Pernik	7.0	12.4	2.0
Sofia	(1.3)	(1.2)	4.5
Sofia (stolitsa)	18.3	2.7	10.7
Yuzhen tsentralen	18.4	3.1	35.0
Kardzhali	(1.6)	(2.6)	5.0
Pazardzhik	5.1	4.8	8.0
Plovdiv	8.6	2.9	12.2
Smolyan	(2.6)	(5.7)	4.3
Haskovo	(0.6)	(0.6)	5.5

Average annual wages and salaries

Gross annual wages and salaries are the remunerations paid regularly to the employees by the employers before the deduction of any tax and social security contributions payable by the employees and withheld by the employers.

The average annual gross wages and salaries are calculated through dividing the total amount of wage and salary costs accrued during the reference year by the average annual number of employees under labour contract excluding those on maternity leave.

Figure 11. Nominal and real wages and salaries
(Percentage change to preceding year)



12. Average annual wages and salaries by economic activity groupings and type of ownership

(BGN)

Economic activity groupings	Total		Public sector		Private sector	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Total	21242	24147	21700	24929	21096	23887
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	15582	17300	21203	23526	14440	16037
Mining and quarrying	29513	32980	31117	35952	28565	31245
Manufacture of food products, beverages and tobacco products	17348	19336	..	..	17352	19338
Manufacture of textiles, wearing apparel, leather and related products	11727	13472	13759	17490	11720	13459
Manufacture of wood and paper products, and printing	15429	17493	12517	15724	15441	17501
Manufacture of coke, and refined petroleum products	34897	40113	-	-	34897	40113



12. Average annual wages and salaries by economic activity groupings and type of ownership

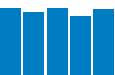
(Continued and end)

(BGN)

Economic activity groupings	Total		Public sector		Private sector	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	22878	24319	-	-	22878	24319
Manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical and botanical products	20608	24567	..	..	20169	24204
Manufacture of rubber and plastics products, and other non-metallic mineral products	17306	20793	..	..	17306	20793
Manufacture of basic metals and fabricated metal products, except machinery	20097	22661	..	..	20417	22829
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	26481	27009	..	..	26506	27034
Manufacture of electrical equipment	20764	24433	-	-	20764	24433
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	21547	23393	-	-	21547	23393
Manufacture of transport equipment	20334	22570	-	-	20334	22570
Other manufacturing, and repair and installation of machinery and equipment	19986	23170	18972	20968	20008	23219
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	33149	37599	38551	44508	28233	31123
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation	16220	17722	14573	16890	18750	19055
Construction	16022	18537	17662	20487	15993	18502
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	18220	20890	19902	24280	18218	20887
Transportation and storage	17126	20107	20983	24298	15542	18287
Accommodation and food service activities	12629	14668	14836	17449	12547	14544
Publishing, audiovisual and broadcasting activities	27973	31796	22878	25947	29585	33861
Telecommunications	33973	37300	..	..	33975	37302
IT and other information services	58638	64233	40266	48290	58822	64407
Financial and insurance activities	32448	36265	48740	58297	31950	35657
Real estate activities	19317	20776	15023	16604	19846	21412
Legal, accounting, management, architecture and engineering and similar activities	25899	30187	21291	25367	25999	30295
Scientific research and development	32959	36662	19646	23369	58089	60278
Other professional, scientific and technical activities	31521	34644	17890	19723	31600	34704
Administrative and support service activities	17621	19892	10493	12543	19084	21313
Public administration and defence, compulsory social security	24420	28061	24420	28061	x	x
Education	22043	25969	22113	26007	20959	25377
Human health services	26099	29581	25414	28318	27338	31837
Residential care and social work activities	13450	15303	13295	15143	15592	18105
Arts, entertainment and recreation	18180	20409	16479	19279	19426	21235
Other services	13440	15291	14225	15447	13412	15284

IV. EDUCATION





Types of educational institutions

Educational institutions are those institutions, which directly perform training according to educational programmes with students in organized classes (groups) locally or through distance learning. Educational programs in those institutions include all educational stages and/or attainment of professional qualification level. Non-formal education and informal learning do not come into the scope of the educational system, according to the definitions of ISCED 2011.

From the school year 2021/2022, the National Statistical Institute (NSI) has transitioned to the use of administrative data for preschool and school education, and from 2023/2024 for the tertiary education as well. Data on preschool and school education are obtained from the National Electronic System for Preschool and School education, while those on tertiary education are obtained from the Register of all students enrolled, students who have interrupted their studies and graduates. Both databases are maintained by the Ministry of Education and Science (MES).

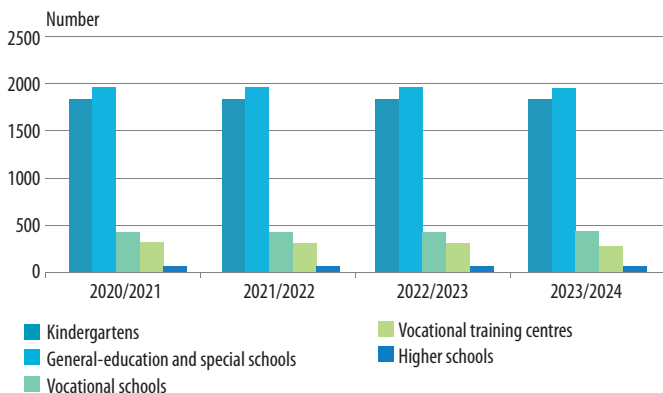
Types of educational institutions:

- Kindergartens;
- Schools¹ (I - XII grade): primary (I - IV grade), basic (I - VII grade), integrated (I - X grade), gymnasiums (VIII - XII grade), secondary (I - XII grade), vocational (art schools, sport schools, vocational gymnasiums providing training on programs for attainment of level of professional qualification);
- Vocational training centres providing training to persons aged 16 and over in vocational programmes against payment for acquisition of professional qualification, according to the Law on Vocational Education and Training;
- Vocational colleges and vocational gymnasiums carrying out training on programs with admission after completed secondary education;
- Higher schools - colleges, universities and equivalent higher schools. The statistical survey on tertiary education covers all higher schools accredited according to the Higher Education Act and up to 2021/2022 academic year incl. the private spiritual higher schools, opened under the regulation of the Religious Denominations Act.

¹ According to the Pre-school and School Education Act (promulgated SG No. 79 of 13 October 2015).



Figure 1. Educational institutions by type



1. Educational institutions by type and kind of ownership

(Number)

	2020/2021		2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Total	Of which: Private	Total	Of which: Private	Total	Of which: Private	Total	Of which: Private
Total	4566	556	4536	544	4533	549	4509	526
Kindergartens	1823	110	1817	117	1817	119	1827	123
General education and special schools¹	1956	97	1956	96	1950	99	1939	94
Primary (I - IV grade)	129	6	126	7	127	8	128	9
Basic (I - VII grade)	1 151	38	1 136	34	1 128	35	1 123	33
Integrated (I - X grade)	71	1	75	-	75	-	74	-
Upper secondary (VIII - XII grade)	114	23	116	20	116	19	115	19
Secondary (I - XII grade)	491	29	503	35	504	37	499	33
Vocational schools	418	23	417	27	419	28	421	30
Art schools	21	-	21	-	21	-	21	-
Sport schools	25	-	25	-	25	-	25	-
Vocational gymnasiums	353	6	350	8	351	9	356	14
Vocational colleges after upper secondary education	19	17	21	19	22	19	19	16
Vocational Training Centres²	315	310	292	288	296	290	271	266
Higher schools³	54	16	54	16	51	13	51	13
Universities and equivalent higher schools	50	12	50	12	48	10	48	10
Colleges at the universities	17	-	17	-	17	-	17	-
Independent colleges	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3

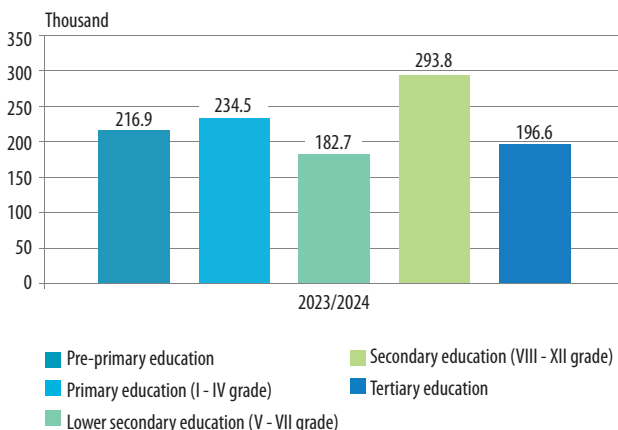
¹ Incl. the Bulgarian schools abroad financed by the state.² Centres conducting programmes for attaining level of professional qualification.³ Due to a change in the Religious Denominations Act, the three spiritual higher schools are out of the scope of the survey, from the 2022/2023 academic year.

Students enrolled

The methodology of education statistics is built on the basis of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED), revision 2011, and the concomitant methodological guidelines:

- Pre-primary education in kindergartens and preparatory groups at schools (education level ISCED - 0);
- Primary and lower secondary education, secondary education in all types of schools and vocational education after upper secondary education in vocational colleges (education levels ISCED - 1, 2, 3 and 4);
- Vocational training against payment for attainment of professional qualification in centres for vocational training, vocational gymnasiums, vocational colleges and vocational schools (education levels ISCED - 2, 3 and 4);
- Tertiary education for acquiring professional bachelor's, bachelor's and master's educational-qualification degrees from colleges, universities and equivalent higher schools (education levels ISCED - 6 and 7);
- Tertiary education for acquiring doctor's educational and scientific degree from universities, equivalent higher schools and scientific organizations (education level ISCED - 8).

Figure 2. **Students enrolled by level of education**





2. Pupils and students enrolled by level of International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) and by type of the institution

(Number)

	2020/2021		2021/2022 ¹		2022/2023		2023/2024 ²	
	Total	Of which: at private	Total	Of which: at private	Total	Of which: at private	Total	Of which: at private
Total	1156555	54287	1159605	53650	1155980	53801	1133894	50503
Pre-primary education (ISCED - 0)	215666	4874	214847	5569	216481	5977	216857	6129
Primary education (I - IV grade, ISCED - 1)	237737	4877	233548	4880	232549	5141	234521	5206
Lower secondary and secondary education (V - VII grade and VIII - XII grade, ISCED - 2, 3)	466015	7633	475148	8551	476738	9423	476470	10036
Vocational training for adults - first level professional qualification (ISCED - 2)	3870	3297	3380	2907	3711	2671	3464	2555
Vocational training for adults - second level professional qualification (ISCED - 3)	2690	2259	2429	2073	2092	1604	2258	1832
Vocational training for adults - third level professional qualification (ISCED - 3)	3600	2951	2559	1918	2476	1652	3034	2277
Post secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED - 4)	530	398	586	380	603	456	682	454
Vocational training for adults - fourth level professional qualification (ISCED - 4)	86	86	127	127	-	-	-	-
Tertiary education (ISCED - 6, 7, 8)	226361	27912	226981	27245	221330	26877	196608	22014
Professional bachelor's degree (ISCED - 6)	7991	1564	7799	1430	6783	1188	6321	1098
Bachelor's degree (ISCED - 6)	139765	19339	139000	18596	135947	18558	123335	16304
Master's degree (ISCED - 7)	72035	6748	73640	6940	72052	6842	60857	4442
Doctor's degree (ISCED - 8)	6570	261	6542	279	6548	289	6095	170

¹ Break in the time series for the preschool and school education due to change of the data source and the reference date.

² Break in the time series for the tertiary education data due to a change of the data source and the methodology.

Teachers by teaching levels

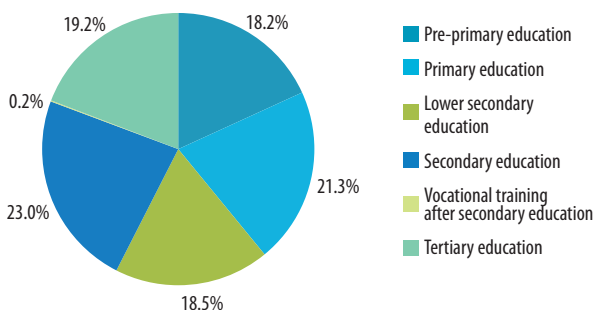
The teachers (academic staff) are officials who directly conduct the training sessions according to the curricula irrespective of whether they are full-time or part-time employees.

The management personnel include officials performing managerial functions at the level of the educational institution - principals, assistant principals with teaching responsibilities, rectors, deans and their assistants, heads of departments.

The number of the teaching staff includes teachers and management personnel with teaching activity.

Teachers in primary and secondary education are grouped by levels of teaching and by programme orientation (general or vocational). In the cases when a teacher teaches at different levels, he/she is classified at the level where he/she has more school hours.

Figure 3. Structure of the teachers by teaching levels in 2023/2024





3. Teaching staff by level of International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011)

(Number)

	2020/2021	2021/2022 ¹	2022/2023	2023/2024
Total	110455	110259	110799	109972
Pre-primary education (ISCED - 0)	20094	19975	19747	20001
Primary education (I - IV grade, ISCED - 1)	23042	23499	23626	23016
Lower secondary and upper secondary education (V - VII grade and VIII - XII grade, ISCED - 2, 3)	46432	45863	46319	45647
Post secondary non-tertiary (ISCED - 4)	171	227	225	210
Tertiary education (ISCED - 6, 7)	20716	20695	20882	21098
In colleges (ISCED - 6)	677	672	622	625
In universities and equivalent higher schools (ISCED - 6, 7)	20039	20023	20260	20473

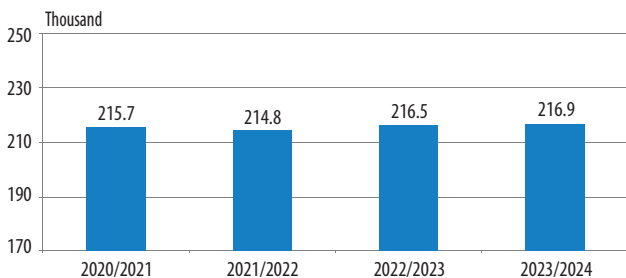
¹ Break in the time series for the preschool and school education due to change of the data source and the reference date.



Kindergartens

The kindergartens and preparatory groups at schools cover children aged 3 - 6 years.

Figure 4. Children in kindergartens





4. Kindergartens

(Number)

	2020/2021	2021/2022 ¹	2022/2023	2023/2024
Kindergartens	1823	1817	1817	1827
Pedagogical staff	20094	19975	19747	20001
of which: teachers	18786	18726	18830	19236
Children enrolled ²	215666	214847	216481	216857
of which: girls	104026	104332	105234	105281

¹ Brake in the time series due to change of the data source.

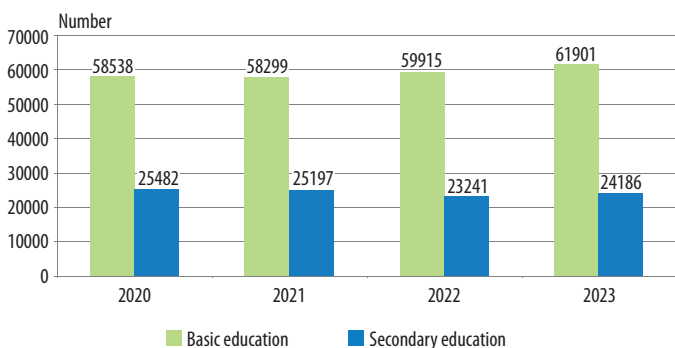
² Including children in preparatory groups at schools.

General education schools

General education schools are non-profiled and profiled (foreign languages, natural sciences and mathematics, humanitarian and others). The data about the number of students is provided by grade groups.

Graduates are those students who have received a document for a completed level from a legitimate educational institution, containing all the necessary records and stamps according to the law.

Figure 5. Graduates from general education schools





5. Pupils at general education programmes by groups of grades

(Number)

	2020/2021	2021/2022 ¹	2022/2023	2023/2024
Total	565023	556830	549926	544992
I - IV grade	237556	233369	232549	234334
V - VII grade	194412	194914	189580	182523
VIII - XII grade	133055	128547	127797	128135

6. Graduates from general education schools

(Number)

	2020	2021 ¹	2022	2023
Basic education	58538	58299	59915	61901
Upper secondary education	25482	25197	23241	24186

¹ Break in the time series due to change of the data source and the reference date.

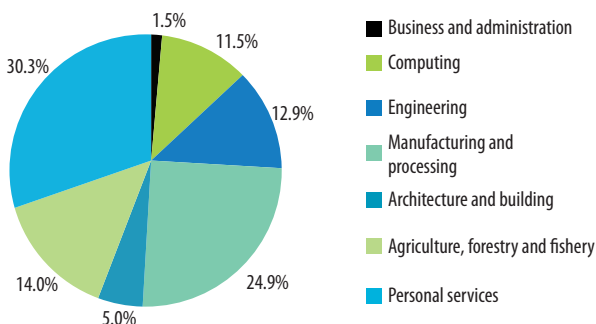
Vocational training - I level

The training for attainment of first level professional qualification is conducted in vocational classes.

The number of graduates includes students who successfully passed the exams and received certificates for first level of professional qualification.

The distribution of students and graduates in programmes for acquiring all the levels of professional qualification by narrow fields of education is presented according to the List of professions for vocational education and training, approved by Order № 09-4493/18.11.2021 of the Minister of Education and Science.

Figure 6. Structure of the students by narrow fields of education in programmes for attainment of first level of professional qualification for the school year 2023/2024





7. Students in programmes for attainment of first level professional qualification by narrow fields

(Number)

Narrow fields of education	2020/2021	2021/2022 ¹	2022/2023	2023/2024
Total	2885	3946	4022	4035
Business and administration	119	132	74	60
Computing	259	550	551	466
Engineering	411	615	500	519
Manufacturing and processing	801	928	960	1005
Architecture and building	116	170	196	200
Agriculture, forestry and fishery	378	405	537	564
Personal services	801	1146	1204	1221

8. Graduates from programmes for attainment of first level professional qualification by narrow fields

(Number)

Narrow fields of education	2020	2021 ¹	2022	2023
Total	390	461	402	479
Business and administration	-	20	27	29
Computing	22	44	36	118
Engineering	70	49	79	44
Manufacturing and processing	144	120	105	133
Architecture and building	10	26	14	25
Agriculture, forestry and fishery	36	56	45	24
Personal services	108	146	96	106

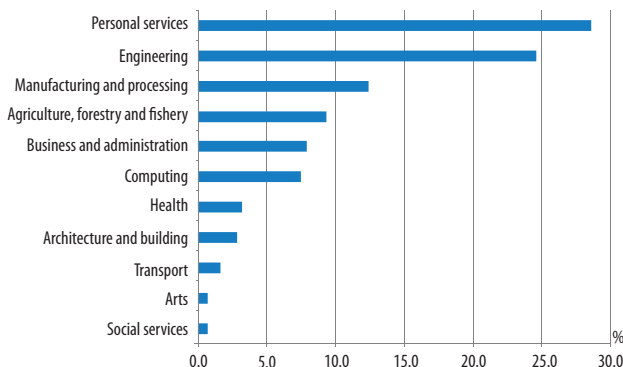
¹ Break in the time series due to change of the data source and the reference date.

Vocational training - II level

Training for acquiring second level of professional qualification is carried out in vocational gymnasiums and vocational classes in general education schools.

Secondary education graduates and students having attained second level of professional qualification from vocational gymnasiums are eligible to continue their education in higher schools or to start work in the acquired occupation (specialty).

Figure 7. Structure of the students by narrow fields of education in programmes for attainment of second level of professional qualification for the school year 2023/2024





9. Students in programmes for attainment of second level professional qualification by narrow fields

(Number)

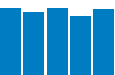
Narrow fields of education	2020/2021	2021/2022 ¹	2022/2023	2023/2024
Total	24871	27087	28757	29054
Arts	241	235	241	216
Business and administration	1838	2016	2257	2313
Computing	1153	1868	2071	2196
Engineering	5237	6343	6934	7175
Manufacturing and processing	2846	3248	3435	3616
Architecture and building	713	732	806	833
Agriculture, forestry and fishery	4049	3522	3155	2732
Health	337	702	847	948
Social services	61	135	198	205
Personal services	7946	7771	8285	8343
Transport	450	515	528	477

10. Graduates from programmes for attainment of second level professional qualification by narrow fields

(Number)

Narrow fields of education	2020	2021 ¹	2022	2023
Total	2325	2734	1209	1959
Arts	20	12	17	21
Business and administration	267	254	126	148
Computing	96	187	104	190
Engineering	392	476	171	251
Manufacturing and processing	275	267	95	167
Architecture and building	61	73	18	34
Agriculture, forestry and fishery	373	390	149	177
Health	17	28	41	67
Social Services	-	-	3	19
Personal services	804	1016	470	858
Transport	20	31	15	27

¹ Break in the time series due to change of the data source and the reference date.

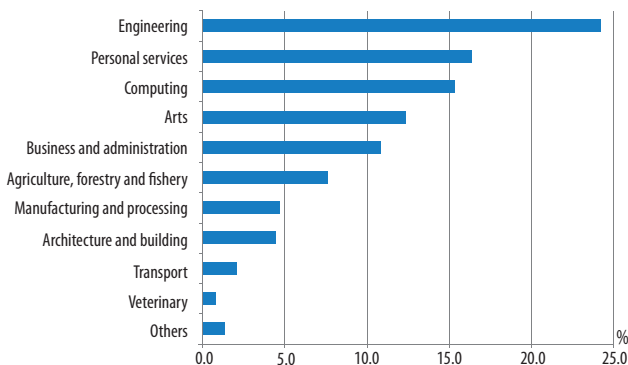


Vocational training - III level

Vocational gymnasiums, art schools, sport schools and vocational classes in general education schools provide vocational training for acquisition of third level of professional qualification.

Secondary education graduates and students having attained third level of professional qualification from vocational gymnasiums, art schools and sport schools are eligible to continue their education in higher schools or to start work in the acquired occupation (specialty).

Figure 8. Structure of the students by narrow fields of education in programmes for attainment of third level of professional qualification for the school year 2023/2024





11. Students in programmes for attainment of third level professional qualification by narrow fields

(Number)

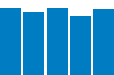
Narrow fields of education	2020/2021	2021/2022 ¹	2022/2023	2023/2024
Total	110370	120136	125893	132251
Arts	9912	12124	14186	16360
Humanities	106	141	116	116
Journalism, mass communication and information	63	60	64	67
Business and administration	14773	14367	14241	14356
Physical sciences	9	9	9	8
Computing	13116	16052	18255	20275
Engineering	29697	30549	31436	32054
Manufacturing and processing	5684	6250	6237	6189
Architecture and building	5165	5470	5667	5891
Agriculture, forestry and fishery	9123	9889	9992	9992
Veterinary	899	925	982	1025
Health	330	314	401	526
Social services	452	456	513	638
Personal services	19041	21094	20902	21585
Transport	1558	1992	2466	2775
Environmental protection	258	261	286	278
Public security services	184	183	140	116

12. Graduates from programmes for attainment of third level professional qualification by narrow fields

(Number)

Narrow fields of education	2020	2021 ¹	2022	2023
Total	12499	13466	16016	17327
Arts	885	1196	1443	1761
Humanities	-	-	8	11
Journalism, mass communication and information	12	13	8	11
Business and administration	2468	2396	2722	2786
Physical sciences	-	-	-	9
Computing	1352	1465	2184	2385
Engineering	3100	3250	3681	4280
Manufacturing and processing	501	579	668	640
Architecture and building	684	590	859	966
Agriculture, forestry and fishery	839	1159	981	1042
Veterinary	155	106	101	125
Health	33	32	57	47
Social services	25	41	30	20
Personal services	2306	2503	3064	2991
Transport	105	99	143	192
Environmental protection	34	37	38	41
Security services	-	-	29	20

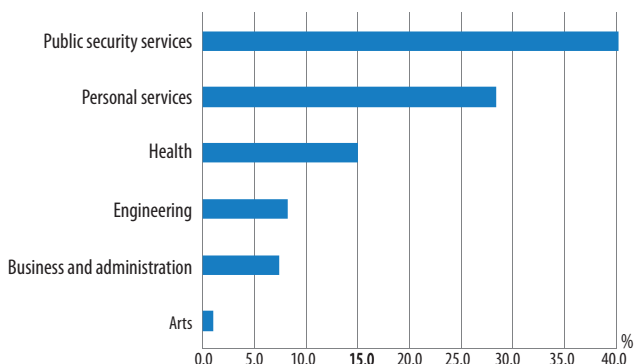
¹ Break in the time series due to change of the data source and the reference date.



Vocational training - IV level

The vocational colleges and vocational gymnasiums provide vocational training for acquisition of fourth level of professional qualification with duration of up to two years. They enrol students with completed upper secondary education.

Figure 9. Structure of the students by narrow fields of education in programmes for attainment of fourth level of professional qualification for the school year 2023/2024





13. Students in programmes for attainment of fourth level professional qualification after completed upper secondary education by narrow fields

(Number)

Narrow fields of education	2020/2021	2021/2022 ¹	2022/2023	2023/2024
Total	530	586	603	682
Arts	29	4	-	7
Business and administration	139	139	92	50
Engineering	101	62	58	56
Health	18	18	119	102
Personal services	89	121	143	193
Public security services	154	242	191	274

14. Graduates from programmes for attainment of fourth level professional qualification after completed upper secondary education by narrow fields

(Number)

Narrow fields of education	2020	2021 ¹	2022	2023
Total	581	338	464	217
Arts	8	-	1	-
Business and administration	35	58	46	45
Engineering	26	24	39	12
Health	4	7	99	55
Personal services	65	52	64	42
Public security services	443	197	215	63

¹ Break in the time series due to change of the data source and the reference date.

Tertiary education

A student is any person enrolled in an educational program of formal tertiary education according to ISCED irrespective of the mode of attendance. Formal education includes the educational programmes implemented in the legitimate educational institutions created in compliance with the existing legal order.

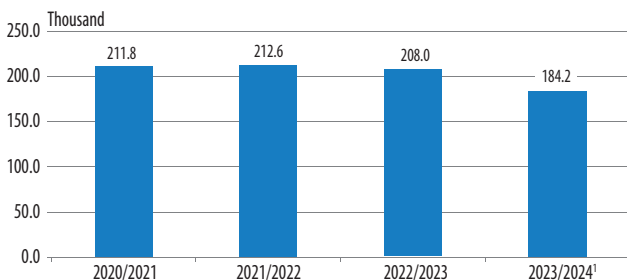
NSI obtains annually the number of students enrolled by counting the students themselves and not by counting the number of enrolments. For example, according to the current national methodology, students are counted only once in the cases of simultaneous enrolment in two specialties within one university (or college). Double counting is not allowed except in the cases of illicit simultaneous study in two universities.

Graduates with minimal duration of studies of 4 years according to the curriculum are awarded bachelor's degree; master's degree is awarded to graduates with minimal duration of studies of 5 years or at least one year of studies after the acquisition of bachelor's degree.

Professional bachelor's degree is a degree of tertiary professional education. It is awarded after the completion of professional training at college with minimal duration of studies of 3 years.

Doctor's educational and scientific degree is awarded by a Scientific Jury, according to the Law on Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria after minimum 3 years of studies and the successful defence of a doctoral dissertation.

Figure 10. Students enrolled at universities and equivalent higher schools



¹ Break in the time series for the tertiary education data due to a change of the data source and the methodology.



15. Students enrolled at higher schools

(Number)

	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024 ¹
Total	219791	220439	214782	190513
At universities and equivalent higher schools	211800	212640	207999	184192
At colleges	7991	7799	6783	6321

¹ Break in the time series due to a change of the data source and the methodology.

16. Tertiary education graduates¹

(Number)

	2020	2021	2022	2023 ²
Total	45258	46135	47675	44077
Professional bachelor's	1712	1864	1795	1603
Bachelor's	23151	23269	23295	22097
Master's	20395	21002	22585	20377

¹ Excl. doctor's educational and scientific degree.

² Break in the time series due to a change of the data source.

17. PhD students in higher schools and scientific organizations¹

(Number)

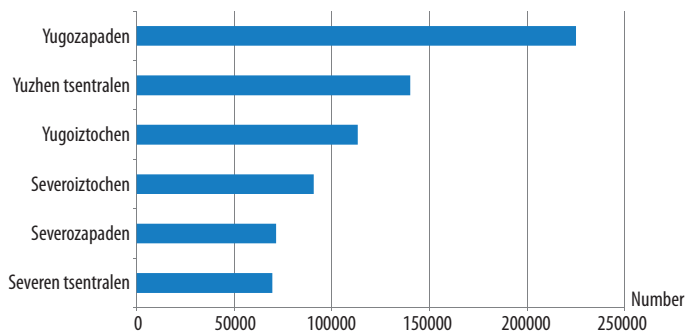
	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024 ¹
Students enrolled	6570	6542	6548	6095
of which: Regular training	3607	3709	3629	3697
Graduates at doctoral level	1097	1149	1101	955
of which: Regular training	505	542	503	322

¹ Break in the time series due to a change of the data source.

Schools, teaching staff and pupils by district

The ‘district’ administrative and territorial units are presented in accordance with the Territorial Organization Act of the Republic of Bulgaria, which entered into force on 5 February 1999 (28 districts), while the territorial units for statistical purposes ‘statistical zones’ and ‘statistical regions’ are presented according to the Classification of Territorial Units for Statistical Purposes in Bulgaria. This classification complies with NUTS classification of Eurostat and is approved with an Ordinance of the President of NSI on the basis of Regulation (EC) No. 31/2011 of the Commission of 17 January 2011 on the amendment of Regulation 1059/2003, as well as on art. 9, p. 9 in conjunction with art 7. (1), p. 6 and p. 15, art. 10 of the Statistics Act (promulgated SG No. 13/08 February 2013, into force 12 February 2013).

Figure 11. Pupils by statistical region in the school year 2023/2024





18. Schools, teaching staff and students by statistical zone, statistical region and district in the school year 2023/2024¹

(Number)

Statistical zones, statistical regions and districts	Schools	Teaching staff	Students
Total	2341	68663	710991
<i>Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>	1264	33790	345352
Severozapaden	317	7364	71516
Vidin	31	705	6873
Vratsa	70	1738	16862
Lovech	55	1236	12265
Montana	58	1220	11876
Pleven	103	2465	23640
Severen tsentralen	275	7237	69589
Veliko Tarnovo	84	2244	21012
Gabrovo	30	906	9378
Razgrad	53	1140	11188
Ruse	67	1912	18637
Silistra	41	1035	9374
Severoiztochen	304	8802	90819
Varna	123	4542	50682
Dobrich	67	1546	14301
Targovishte	50	1075	9909
Shumen	64	1639	15927
Yugoiztochen	368	10387	113428
Burgas	137	4218	46462
Sliven	68	1842	20525
Stara Zagora	120	3197	33797
Yambol	43	1130	12644
<i>Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria</i>	1077	34873	365639
Yugozapaden	570	21114	225320
Blagoevgrad	117	3397	34331
Kyustendil	37	1033	10683
Pernik	40	1076	11329
Sofia	96	2416	23881
Sofia (stolitsa) ²	280	13192	145096
Yuzhen tsentralen	507	13759	140319
Kardzhali	71	1487	13584
Pazardzhik	110	2504	25283
Plovdiv	192	6496	70198
Smolyan	57	1145	8687
Haskovo	77	2127	22567

¹ Excl. higher schools and vocational colleges.

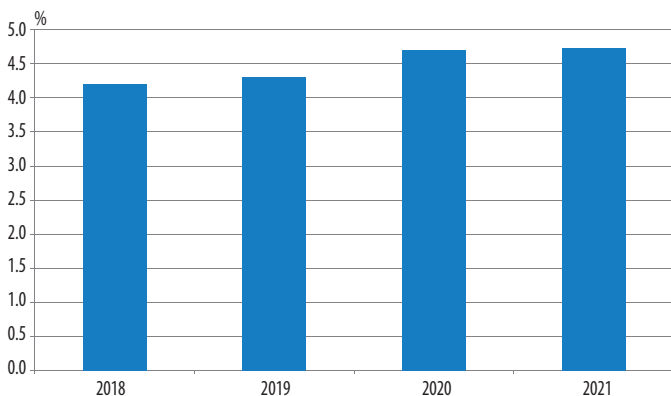
² Incl. the Bulgarian schools abroad, financed by the state.

Coverage rate of education system and education expenditure

The 'group net enrolment rate' indicator aims at showing the extent of coverage of the education system among children and youths belonging to a specific age group corresponding to a given education level.

Public expenditures on education are calculated according to a common methodology of UNESCO, OECD and Eurostat.

Figure 12. Public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP¹



¹ The calculations are on the basis of the Eurostat methodology (UOE - finance tables).



19. Group net enrolment rates¹ of the population by education levels of ISCED 2011

(Per cent)

	2020/2021	2021/2022 ²	2022/2023 ³	2023/2024 ⁴
Pre-primary education (ISCED - 0)	78.1	79.1	87.3	87.9
Primary education (I - IV grade, ISCED - 1)	84.8	83.6	92.7	92.5
Lower and upper secondary education (V - VII grade and VIII - XII grade, ISCED - 2, 3)	84.4	84.6	91.0	88.9
Post secondary non-tertiary (ISCED - 4)	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.03
Tertiary education (ISCED - 6, 7)	42.3	41.9	46.0	42.2

¹ Group net enrolment rates are calculated as a percentage of the number of enrolments by levels of education in age groups 3 - 6, 7 - 10, 11 - 18, 19 - 20 and 19 - 23 years to the number of the population in the same age groups.

² Break in the time series for the preschool and school education due to change of the data source and the reference date.

³ Break in the time series due to the availability of a new population estimate based on the data from the 2021 Census.

⁴ Break in the time series for the tertiary education data due to a change of the data source and the methodology.

20. Early leavers from education and training by sex (age 18 - 24 years old)¹

(Per cent)

	2020	2021 ²	2022 ²	2023
Total	12.8	12.2	10.3	9.3
Male	13.4	11.5	9.1	9.4
Female	12.1	12.9	11.4	9.2

¹ Source: NSI, Labour Force Survey - annual data.

² Break in the time series.

V. CULTURE AND ART





Publishing

The national written cultural heritage is expressed in the books, pamphlets, newspapers, magazines, bulletins and periodical collections issued in the country. The statistical reporting for the issued products gives the public an idea of the number of titles and their circulation by different classification groups.

Figure 1. Published titles

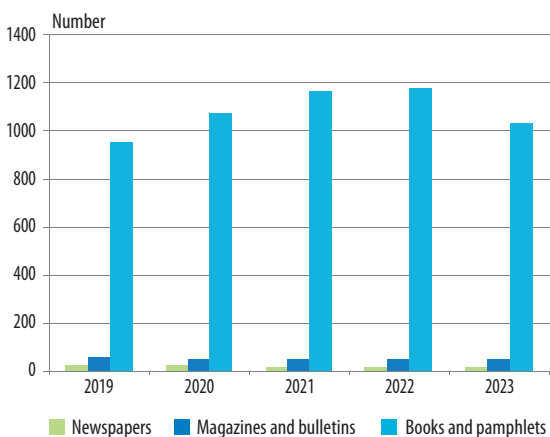
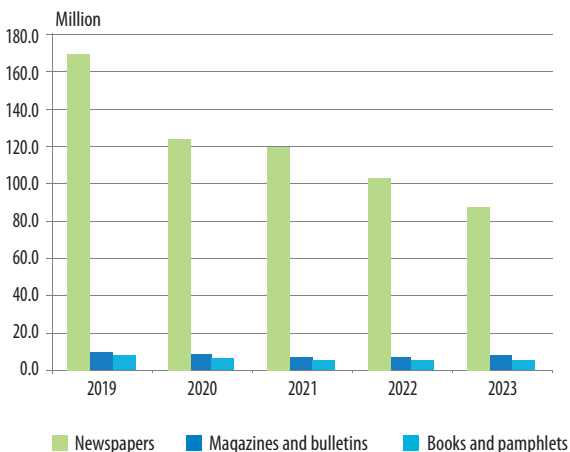


Figure 2. Circulation





1. Publishing

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Books and pamphlets				
Titles - number	9516	10769	11700	11828	10361
Circulation - million	7.6	5.7	5.0	5.6	5.4
	Magazines and bulletins				
Titles - number	595	519	494	503	475
Annual circulation - million	9.0	8.4	7.0	7.1	7.9
	Newspapers				
Titles - number	223	209	201	191	180
Annual circulation - million	169.3	123.3	119.6	102.8	87.2

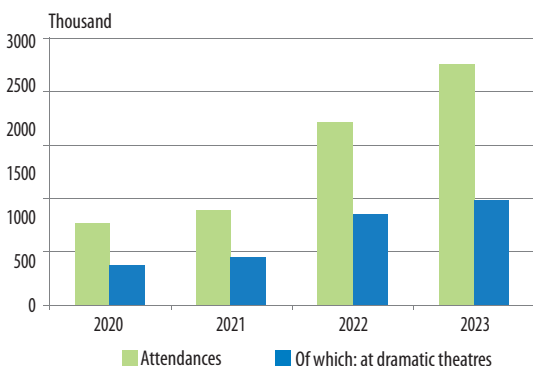
2. Book and pamphlet production by target group in 2023

Target group	Total		Books		Pamphlets	
	Titles - number	Circulation - thousand	Titles - number	Circulation - thousand	Titles - number	Circulation - thousand
Total	10361	5357	8568	4166	1793	1191
Social political	19	4	17	4	2	0
Scientific literature	2136	351	1932	328	204	22
Popular literature	2022	1150	1848	1033	174	117
Scientific and popular for adults	2022	1150	1848	1033	174	117
Professional literature	89	39	61	33	28	6
Professional production	89	39	61	33	28	6
Educational literature	1345	1192	1108	977	237	215
Higher schools	763	106	683	98	80	8
General-education and special schools	473	1045	340	845	133	200
Educational methodological	109	41	85	34	24	8
Fiction for adults	2995	1295	2828	1264	167	31
Children and juvenile literature	1548	1264	602	472	946	791
Children and juvenile fiction	949	775	473	340	476	434
Children and juvenile popular science	599	489	129	132	470	357
Official documents	70	16	58	14	12	2
Reference literature	137	46	114	40	23	6

Performing arts and cinemas

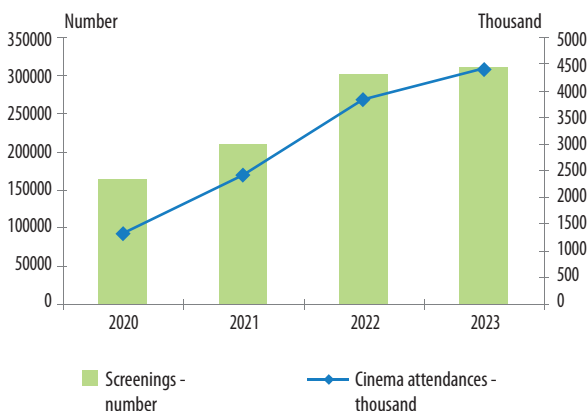
NSI observes the activities of theatres, operas, operettas and musical theatres, and of music and dance formations (philharmonic orchestras, ensembles for folk songs and dances and orchestras), their audience capacity, attendance and number of performances.

Figure 3. Attendances at theatres



At the end of 2023 the number of cinemas in Bulgaria was 81, and the number of screens - 225, which is a decrease by 4 and 2 respectively in comparison with 2022.

Figure 4. Cinema attendances and screenings





3. Theatres

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Theatres - number	71	71	72	83
Capacity - thousand	28.6	29.7	31.7	34.1
Theatre performances - thousand	7.0	10.0	13.2	16.1
Theatre attendance - million	0.8	0.9	1.7	2.2

4. Cinemas

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cinemas - number	70	76	85	81
Screenings - number	162906	210536	301350	309659
Cinema attendances - thousand	1316	2400	3816	4412

5. Film production

	2020	2021	2022	(Number) 2023 ¹
Films by kind				
Films produced	95	74	98	145
of which: for the television	41	31	58	92
Full-length films	28	20	24	37
Feature films	22	12	18	19
Documentaries	6	8	5	17
Others	-	-	1	1
Short- and medium length films	67	54	74	108
Feature films	14	13	15	7
Documentaries	42	30	48	91
Animations	11	11	11	10
Others	-	-	-	-

¹ Preliminary data.

Museums and community clubs

A museum is a cultural and scientific organisation which searches, examines, conserves and makes available for public viewing cultural and natural evidential material with cognitive, educational and aesthetical purposes. NSI observes all open to visits museums: historical, natural, archaeological, ethnographic museums, art galleries and other exhibitions.

The Community clubs are 'traditional self-governing Bulgarian cultural and educational associations in urban and village areas, which perform public cultural and educational tasks' (Art. 2.(1) of the Act on the community clubs). NSI conducts the survey on the activities of the community clubs every five years.

Figure 5. Museums

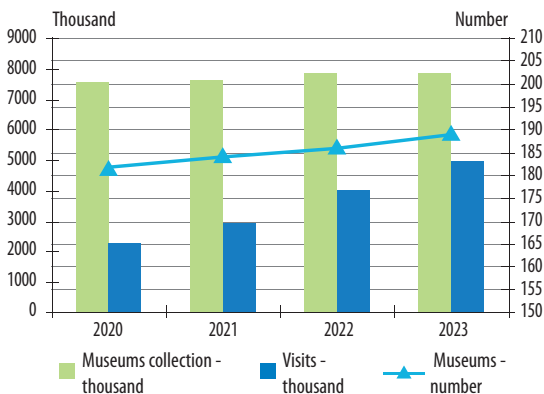
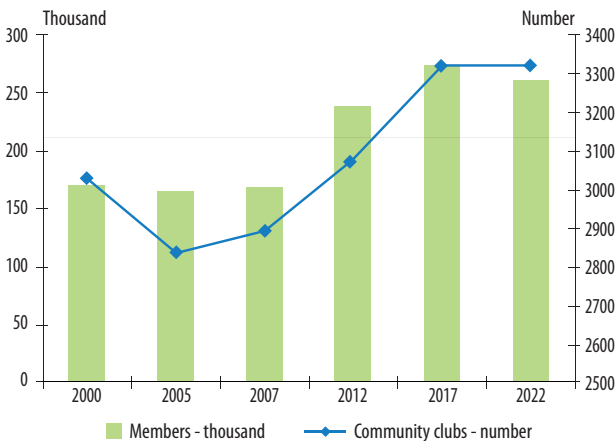


Figure 6. Community clubs and community clubs members





6. Museums

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Museums - number	182	184	186	189
Movable cultural heritage - thousand	7550	7624	7804	7848
Digital units - thousand	407	452	463	436
Visits - thousand	2236	2915	4001	4965
Visits in the day for free entrance - thousand	266	383	545	789
Personnel - number	3365	3377	3392	3685
of which: Professionals with an academic degree or academic title and curators	1084	1057	1062	1120

7. Museums by statistical zone and statistical region in 2023

Statistical zones and statistical regions	Income - thousand BGN	Expenditure - thousand BGN	Personnel - number	
			Total	Of which: Permanent staff
Total	131257	116281	3658	3129
<i>Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>				
Severozapaden	10068	7934	281	271
Severen tsentralen	21943	19788	640	574
Severoiztochen	14999	12328	657	351
Yugoiztochen	17519	15395	471	420
<i>Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria</i>				
Yugozapaden	47348	44861	1109	1045
Yuzhen tsentralen	19380	15975	500	468

8. Community clubs

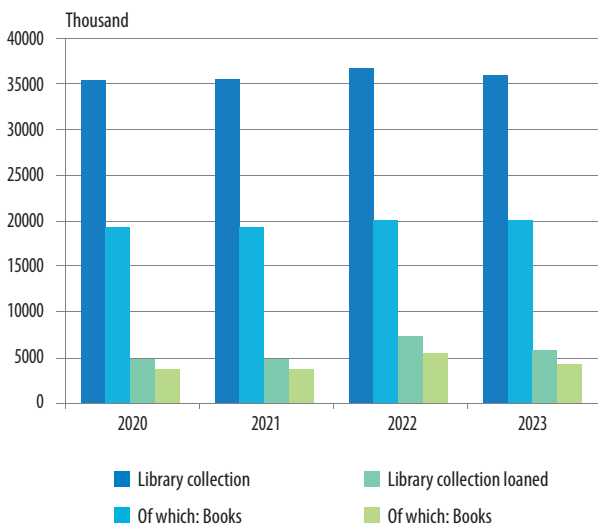
	2007	2012	2017	2022
Community clubs - number	2895	3075	3321	3319
In towns	548	587	663	665
In villages	2347	2488	2658	2654
Members - thousand	168	238	273	261
In towns	67	96	111	106
In villages	101	142	162	155



Libraries

Since 2002 NSI has observed libraries with collections above 200 thousand books. These are the biggest libraries in the country: the ‘St. St. Cyril and Methodius’ National Library, the regional libraries, some larger community club libraries, specialized libraries and libraries at institutions of higher education. At the end of 2023, the 49 libraries had 35 901 thousand library collections. The readers were 270 thousand. The books in libraries decreased by 1.7% compared to the previous year.

Figure 7. Libraries with library collections above 200 thousand





9. Libraries with collections of over 200 thousand

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Libraries - number	47	47	49	49
Library collection - thousand	35312	35480	36528	35901
of which: Books	19135	19179	19825	19848
Library collection loaned - thousand	4838	4807	5247	5638
of which: Books	3567	3591	3934	4226
Users - thousand	205	221	314	270

10. Libraries by category with collection over 200 thousand in 2023

Type of libraries	Libraries - number	Library collection - thousand		Users - thousand	Library collection loaned - thousand	
		Total	of which: Books		Total	of which: Books
Total	49	35901	19848	270	5638	4226
National Library 'St. st. Cyril and Methodius'	1	8491	1951	27	865	420
Regional libraries	26	11957	10123	158	3441	3054
Public libraries	4	1017	950	9	188	150
Libraries at institutions of higher education	13	7516	5068	70	1098	561
Special libraries	5	6920	1756	6	46	41

11. Libraries with collection over 200 thousand by statistical zone and statistical region in 2023

Statistical zones and statistical regions	Libraries - number	Library collection - thousand	Users - thousand	Visitors - thousand	Library collection loaned - thousand
Total	49	35901	270	4377	5638
<i>Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>	27	10345	136	1930	2568
Severozapaden	5	1488	14	202	383
Severen tsentralen	9	3426	41	402	840
Severoiztochen	6	2825	47	704	583
Yugoiztochen	7	2607	33	622	762
<i>Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria</i>	22	25556	134	2448	3069
Yugozapaden	15	22221	90	2089	2453
Yuzhen tsentralen	7	3335	44	359	616

Radio and television activities

During the period 2020 - 2023 the number of radio stations in Bulgaria decreased with four (77 in 2020 and respectively 73 in 2023). In 2023 the share of broadcast advertisements was 4% of all broadcasts.

The total duration of the broadcasts in 2023 decreased by 0.8% compared to 2022. In 2023 the share of television advertising was 6.1% of all broadcasts.

Figure 8. Structure of radio broadcasts

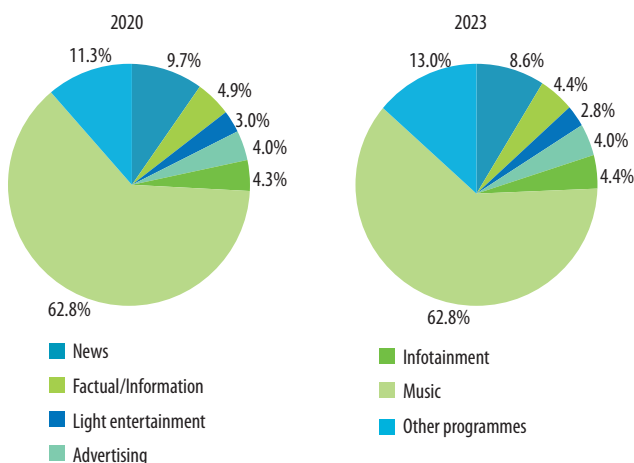
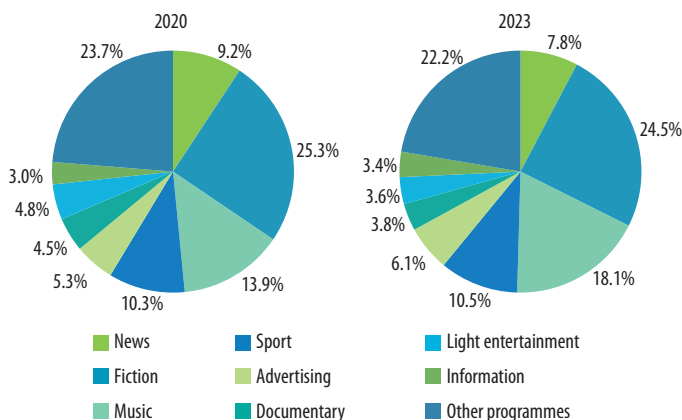


Figure 9. Structure of television broadcasts





12. Radio and television operators

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Radio operators - number	77	74	73	73
Programmes - hour	635102	634967	603201	605616
Television operators - number	120	127	112	113
Programmes - hour	779830	856806	778163	772653

13. Radio programmes by genre

	2020	2021	2022	2023
	(Hour)			
Total	635102	634967	603201	605616
News	61824	63058	52567	51823
Factual/Information	30970	30665	26907	26892
Infotainment	27544	30378	26764	26907
Light entertainment	19369	19865	17888	16694
Art and culture	11774	11945	9264	9277
Educational	7103	6807	8076	8610
Science	1549	1656	1398	2087
Religion	1203	1352	1484	3330
Dramatic	532	329	398	458
Sport	8711	8368	8250	8060
Entertainment	15798	16852	20440	18851
Music	398572	394265	376450	380290
Serious music programmes (classical music)	19346	23204	15034	15883
Light music programmes	272114	263054	247224	250122
Other music programmes	107112	108007	114192	114285
Children-youth	6753	6949	12944	12811
Regional	9566	8471	7583	7686
Advertising	25564	26032	25074	24360
Presentation/Promotion	3761	3719	3516	3574
Not classified elsewhere	4509	4256	4198	3906



14. Television programmes by genre

	(Hour)			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	779830	856806	778163	772272
News	71564	87178	62058	60422
Information	23587	28041	25811	26331
Live broadcast from Parliament	1954	2983	2167	3265
Information/Entertainment	37278	41244	32755	27665
Topical	34622	36666	40784	39769
Human interest	6342	4971	4610	4266
Art/Humanities/ Sciences	14139	15066	15322	15658
Educational	9785	8803	7762	8437
Religion	5679	6170	6530	7298
Sport	80488	102731	88968	80724
Fiction	197517	209265	186926	188944
Feature films	92444	95254	97572	98259
Television or video films	105073	114011	89354	90685
Entertainment	22317	25065	21917	17765
Music	108473	131434	122569	140126
Children	11732	6707	5216	5509
Youth	14340	5497	3895	12742
Documentaries	35479	35147	28754	29656
Regional	6860	8467	7620	8814
Advertising	41036	45152	59446	46873
Teleshopping	11881	17715	15859	13275
Not classified elsewhere	44757	38504	39194	34733

VI. HEALTH



Health establishments and medical personnel

The health network includes in-patient and outpatient health establishments as well as other health establishments. Data are presented according to the status at the end of the year. Data on hospital beds include all de facto operating hospital beds as well as hospital beds temporary out of use for a period of less than six months. Hospital beds for temporary use are excluded.

When analyzing the health network data the following has to be taken into account: the number of health establishments and hospital beds has changed not only as a result of the opening or closure of establishments, but also because of the reorganization or merging of establishments.

At the end of 2023 there are 58 821 beds in all types of health establishments available in the country. Health establishments for hospital aid are hospitals, dermato-venereological centres, complex oncological centres, mental health centres. At the end of 2023 the number of health establishments for hospital aid is 341 with 55 780 beds.

There are 913 beds available per 100 thousand of population in 2023 and 865 hospital beds per 100 thousand inhabitants.

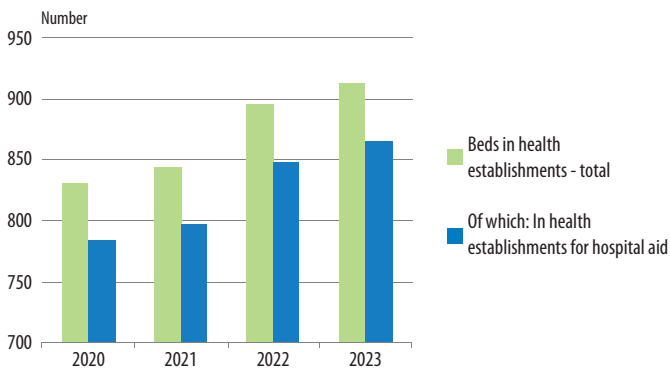
The number of medical personnel (individuals working under basic labour contract) includes persons practicing at healthcare establishments regardless of their ownership and subordination. Data on medical specialists working outside of the country as well as on medical specialists practicing outside of the health establishments (for example, doctors working for the pharmaceutical industry) are excluded.

At the end of 2023, there are 30 295 practicing physicians and 7 599 dentists. The number of physicians and dentists per 10 thousand of the population at the end of 2023 is 47.0 physicians and 11.8 dentists.

The number and structure of the population at the end of each year are calculated on the basis of the previous year's data and the data on natural movements and migration of the population in the current year. The population estimate as of 31 December 2022 reflects the changes in population numbers and structure recorded in the Census 2021. In this regard, there is a break in the time series for all coefficients for 2022.



Figure 1. Beds per 100 000 of the population¹



¹ There is a break in the time series for all coefficients for 2022 due to the availability of a new population estimate based on 2021 Census data.

1. Health establishments as of 31.12.

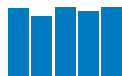
	2021		2022		2023	
	Establish-ments	Beds	Establish-ments	Beds	Establish-ments	Beds
Health establishments for hospital aid	341	54491	341	54707	341	55780
Hospitals	319	52246	319	52462	319	53528
Multi-profile hospitals	182	38418	179	38144	189	40146
Specialized hospitals	137	13828	140	14318	130	13382
Dermato-venereological centres	3	30	3	30	3	30
Complex oncological centres	7	1193	7	1193	7	1203
Mental health centres	12	1022	12	1022	12	1019
Out-patient health establishments	2133	1285	2172	1303	2194	1270
Diagnostic and consulting centres	111	291	111	276	113	276
Medical centres	766	929	786	948	799	905
Dental centres	56	6	64	5	62	8
Medical-dental centres	53	59	60	74	67	81
Independent medical-diagnostical laboratories and medical-technical laboratories	1147	-	1151	-	1153	-
Other health establishments	151	1939	148	1751	153	1771
of which:						
Centres for urgent medical aid	27	-	27	-	27	-
Haematological transfusion centres	4	-	4	-	4	-
Hospices	47	1325	43	1229	41	1157
Homes for medical and social care for children	4	450	4	450	4	418
Integrated care centres for children with disabilities and chronic illnesses	10	160	10	70	10	70

2. Medical personnel in health establishments as of 31.12.¹

	(Number)			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Physicians	29717	29604	29599	30295
Per 10 000 population ²	43.0	43.3	45.9	47.0
Dentists	7312	7499	7602	7599
Per 10 000 population ²	10.6	11.0	11.8	11.8
Health care professionals and other medical specialists	44676	44451	44493	44431
Per 10 000 population ²	64.6	65.0	69.0	68.9
Of which: Nurses	29160	28816	28827	28251
Per 10 000 population ²	42.2	42.1	44.7	43.8

¹ Under basic labour contract.

² There is a break in the time series for all coefficients for 2022 - see methodological notes.



Medical personnel by district

The peculiarities of healthcare services from a territorial point of view have to be taken into account during the analysis of data on health establishments and medical personnel. Depending on the specialization of medical activities, the health establishments serve the population of one or more municipalities, districts or of the entire country.

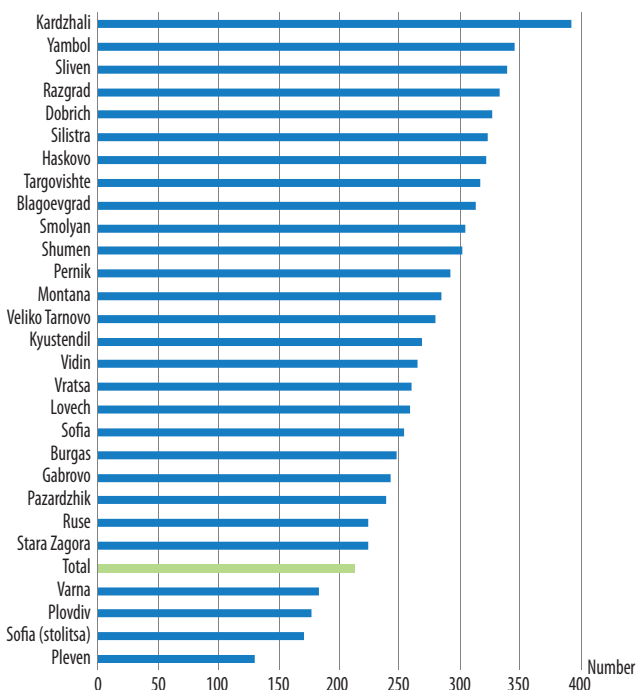
Indicators on the number of population per one physician and per one dentist are calculated based on the number of population at the end of the year. There is a break in the time series for all coefficients for 2022 due to the availability of a new population estimate based on 2021 Census data.

Totally, for the country, there are 213 persons per one physician in 2023.

Compared to the country's average, this indicator is more favourable for the districts Pleven, Sofia (stolitsa), Plovdiv and Varna.

The highest number of population served by one physician is registered for the districts of Kardzhali (392 persons) and Yambol (340).

Figure 2. Population per physician by district at the end of 2023



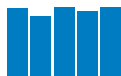
3. Medical care for the population by statistical zone, statistical region and by district as of 31.12.¹

(Number)

Statistical zones, statistical regions and districts	Population per					
	Physician			Dentist		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Total²	231	218	213	912	848	848
<i>Severna i Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>	259	241	236	1169	1072	1067
Severozapaden	214	205	198	1323	1291	1312
Vidin	281	267	260	927	921	983
Vratsa	263	260	259	1372	1353	1330
Lovech	260	260	265	1261	1246	1275
Montana	286	286	280	1527	1452	1487
Pleven	149	138	130	1436	1377	1388
Severen tsentralen	298	274	269	1237	1118	1108
Veliko Tarnovo	304	287	285	1070	972	972
Gabrovo	266	247	243	1162	1066	1090
Razgrad	363	335	345	1796	1580	1549
Ruse	260	232	224	1155	1031	968
Silistra	365	329	317	1589	1449	1579
Severoiztochen	251	228	228	975	845	834
Varna	197	183	183	729	641	627
Dobrich	374	328	333	1455	1237	1275
Targovishte	347	317	313	1716	1552	1471
Shumen	337	297	292	1461	1226	1258
Yugoiztochen	282	264	254	1241	1171	1169
Burgas	288	252	239	1318	1233	1213
Sliven	354	336	326	1396	1343	1360
Stara Zagora	232	231	224	1055	983	984
Yambol	349	338	340	1361	1359	1381
<i>Yugozapadna i Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria</i>	225	215	209	780	737	740
Yugozapaden	214	207	200	801	761	767
Blagoevgrad	332	319	322	956	895	892
Kyustendil	273	277	269	1060	997	997
Pernik	318	297	304	825	776	726
Sofia	267	257	254	1756	1724	1742
Sofia (stolitsa)	184	179	171	692	659	671
Yuzhen tsentralen	244	227	225	751	704	703
Kardzhali	428	382	392	1239	1048	1086
Pazardzhik	272	247	248	1104	1010	1019
Plovdiv	191	181	178	563	537	535
Smolyan	326	308	302	801	778	774
Haskovo	340	322	323	1130	1080	1046

¹ There is a break in the time series for all coefficients for 2022 – see methodological notes.

² The indicators for the country are calculated by taking into account the total number of physicians and dentists incl. those attached to other offices as well as practitioners working in individual or group practices under a contract with the National Health Insurance Fund in more than one district.



Registered cases of malignant neoplasms and active tuberculosis

The data on the registered cases of malignant neoplasms and active tuberculosis are collected on the basis of the annual statistical reports. The latter are produced according to the notifications issued by the specialized health establishments with respect to such cases.

Two indicators are calculated - the prevalence rate and the incidence rate. The prevalence rate is the ratio between the total number of registered cases (incl. cases registered during previous years) and the average population for the respective year. The Incidence rate is the ratio between the newly registered cases and the average population for the same period. There is a break in the time series for all coefficients for 2022 due to the availability of a new population estimate based on 2021 Census data.

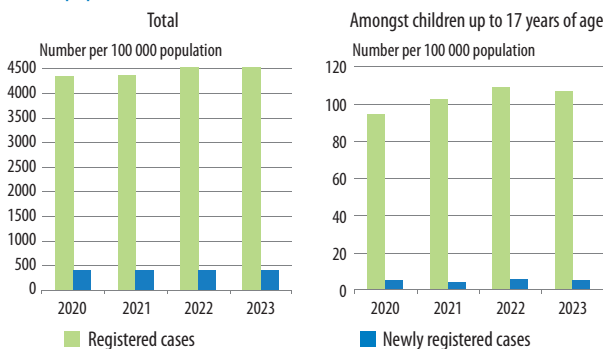
The number of registered cases increases from 4 335 in 2020 to 4 616 in 2023 per 100 thousand of the population. The number of the newly registered cases is 404 per 100 thousand of the population.

The prevalence rate for the malignant neoplasms for children up to 17 years of age is 107 registered cases per 100 thousand children. The incidence rate per 100 thousand children of the respective age group is 5.

In 2023 the prevalence rate for active tuberculosis is 38 per 100 thousand of the population. The incidence rate is 13 per 100 thousand of the population.

The prevalence rate for the children up to 17 and incidence rate is 5 and 2 per 100 thousand children.

Figure 3. Registered and newly registered cases of malignant neoplasms¹
(Per 100 000 population)



¹There is a break in the time series for all coefficients for 2022 due to the availability of a new population estimate based on 2021 Census data.

4. Registered cases of diseases¹

	(Number)			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Malignant neoplasms In numbers			
Total	300580	299628	295880	297572
Of which: New registered cases	27687	26973	26235	26056
Of which: Children 0 - 17 years of age				
Total	1115	1212	1201	1175
Of which: Newly registered	62	52	57	54
	Per 100 000 population ²			
Total	4335	4356	4577	4616
Of which: New registered cases	399	392	406	404
Of which: Children 0 - 17 years of age ³				
Total	94	102	116	107
Of which: Newly registered	5	4	5	5
	Active tuberculosis In numbers			
Total	3064	2548	2541	2419
Of which: New registered cases ⁴	901	678	772	870
Of which: Children 0 - 17 years of age				
Total	164	87	62	60
Of which: New registered cases ⁴	26	29	36	23
	Per 100 000 population ²			
Total	44	37	39	38
Of which: New registered cases ⁴	13	10	12	13
Of which: Children 0 - 17 years of age ³				
Total	14	7	6	5
Of which: New registered cases ⁴	2	2	3	2

¹ Source: National Centre for Health Information at the Ministry of Health.

² There is a break in the time series for all coefficients for 2022 - see methodological notes.

³ Calculated with the number of the population in the corresponding age group.

⁴ Incl. recurrence.

VII. HOUSEHOLD INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND CONSUMPTION





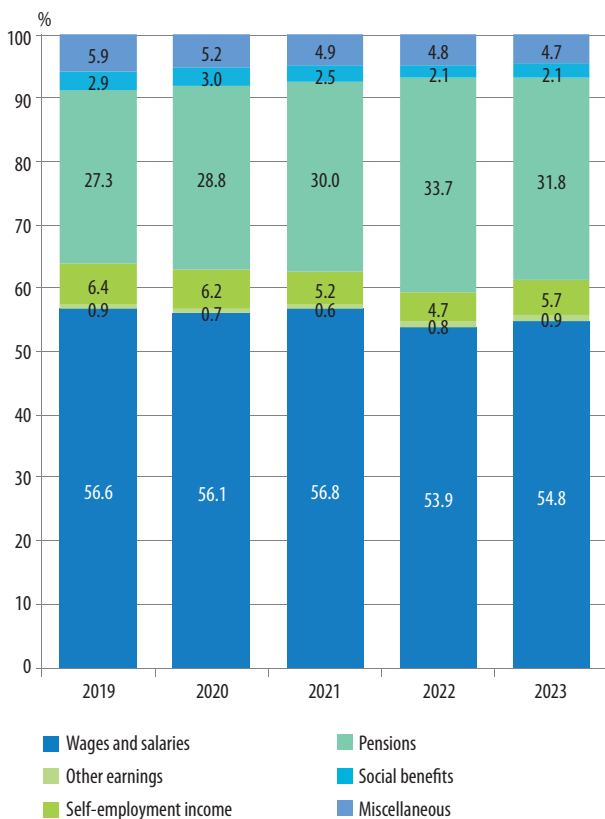
Household income, expenditure and consumption

Total income, total expenditure, consumption of basic foods and purchasing power of the households are calculated on the basis of a quarterly representative survey of a random (stochastic) sample of 3 060 households held by NSI.

Total household income

Total income includes all monetary income as well as income in kind with a known value, irrespective of their source.

Figure 1. Structure of total household income by source





1. Total household income by source

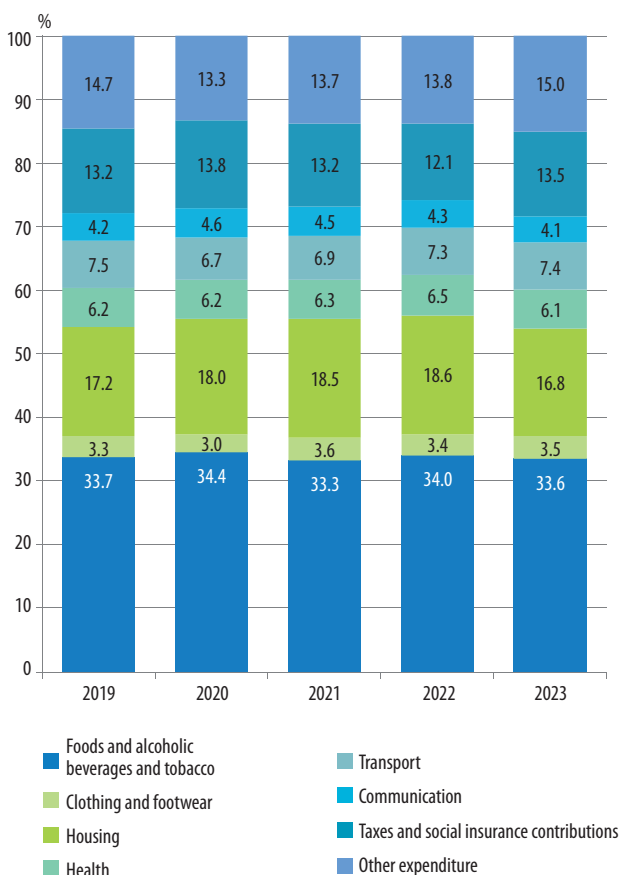
Sources of income	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Average per capita - BGN				
Total income	6592	7002	7705	9008	10846
Total gross income	6325	6749	7434	8720	10499
Wages and salaries	3731	3927	4379	4851	5941
Other earnings	56	46	49	71	101
Self-employment income	421	434	401	421	621
Property income	43	43	33	52	35
Pensions	1801	2018	2311	3039	3451
Unemployment benefits	18	32	31	30	28
Family allowances	82	82	71	75	100
Other social benefits	94	90	90	93	94
Regular transfers from other households	80	78	70	89	128
Receipt sale	27	20	15	30	49
Miscellaneous	239	233	255	257	299
Drawn savings	238	219	278	376	423
Loans and credits	83	66	53	56	56
	Structure - %				
Total income	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total gross income	96.0	96.4	96.5	96.8	96.8
Wages and salaries	56.6	56.1	56.8	53.9	54.8
Other earnings	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.9
Self-employment income	6.4	6.2	5.2	4.7	5.7
Property income	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.3
Pensions	27.3	28.8	30.0	33.7	31.8
Unemployment benefits	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3
Family allowances	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.9
Other social benefits	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.9
Regular transfers from other households	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.2
Receipt sale	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.5
Miscellaneous	3.6	3.3	3.3	2.9	2.8



Total household expenditure

Total household expenditure includes all monetary expenditure on food and non-food goods and services as well as valued expenditure in kind according to the international Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) adopted by Eurostat.

Figure 2. Structure of total household expenditure





2. Total household expenditure by group

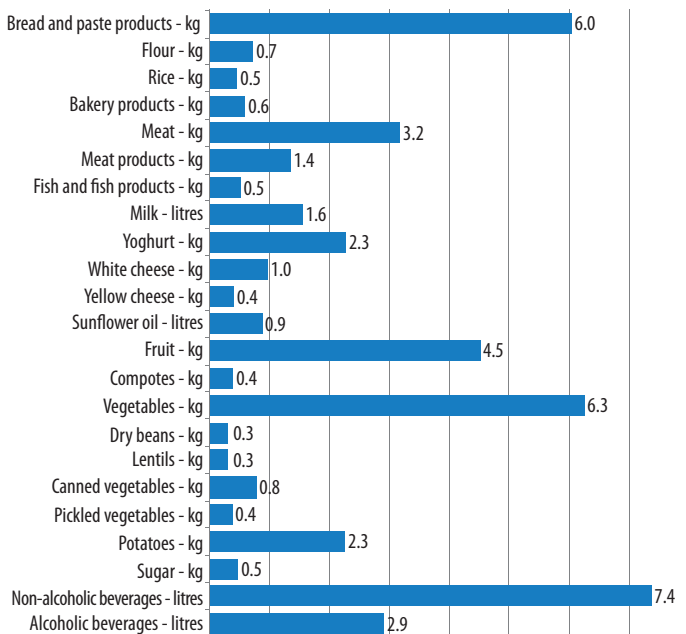
Expenditure groups	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Average per capita - BGN				
Total expenditure	6214	6220	7042	8389	10044
Consumer total expenditure	5066	5054	5788	6970	8216
Foods and non-alcoholic beverages	1833	1872	2057	2529	2987
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	261	265	289	327	390
Clothing and footwear	202	188	256	281	348
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	836	861	974	1187	1211
Furnishing and maintenance of the house	231	260	333	379	474
Health	386	388	442	546	610
Transport	467	415	483	614	744
Communication	263	285	315	360	415
Recreation, culture and education	322	250	312	380	558
Miscellaneous goods and services	264	270	326	366	479
Taxes	348	360	394	423	554
Social insurance contributions	472	500	532	597	801
Regular transfers to other households	64	56	63	68	89
Other expenditure	263	251	264	330	385
Saving deposits	383	510	533	651	697
Debt paid out and loan granted	137	135	141	141	202
	Structure - %				
Total expenditure	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Consumer total expenditure	81.5	81.3	82.2	83.1	81.8
Foods and non-alcoholic beverages	29.5	30.1	29.2	30.1	29.7
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	4.2	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.9
Clothing and footwear	3.3	3.0	3.6	3.4	3.5
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	13.5	13.8	13.8	14.1	12.1
Furnishing and maintenance of the house	3.7	4.2	4.7	4.5	4.7
Health	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.1
Transport	7.5	6.7	6.9	7.3	7.4
Communication	4.2	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.1
Recreation, culture and education	5.2	4.0	4.4	4.5	5.6
Miscellaneous goods and services	4.2	4.3	4.6	4.4	4.8
Taxes	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.0	5.5
Social insurance contributions	7.6	8.0	7.6	7.1	8.0
Regular transfers to other households	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9
Other expenditure	4.2	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.8



Consumption of main foods

The consumption of main food products covers foods consumed at home. Catering data are excluded.

Figure 3. Average monthly consumption of main foods and beverages per capita in 2023





3. Household consumption of main foods and beverages average per capita

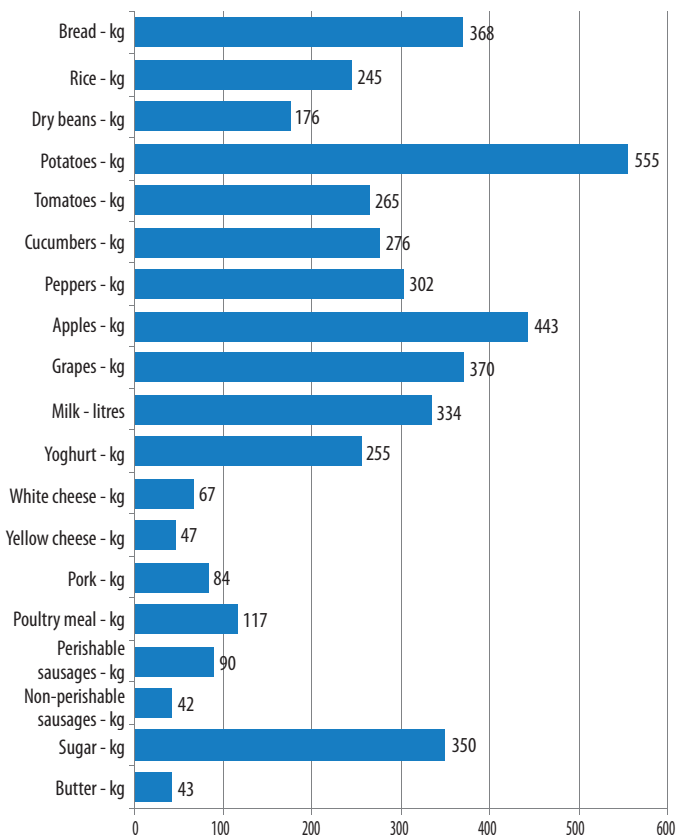
Foods and beverages	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Bread and paste products - kg	82.4	80.4	78.2	75.6	72.5
Flour - kg	8.4	9.3	9.4	9.0	8.8
Rice - kg	5.7	6.0	6.1	5.7	5.6
Other cereals - kg	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.8
Other bakery products - kg	6.0	6.1	6.6	6.8	7.1
Meat - kg	35.7	36.1	38.4	37.8	38.1
Meat products - kg	13.6	13.4	14.6	15.4	16.2
Fish and fish products - kg	5.3	5.6	6.2	6.1	6.2
Milk - litres	16.9	18.0	19.2	18.5	18.7
Yoghurt - kg	29.2	29.6	28.9	28.5	27.3
White cheese - kg	12.1	11.8	12.0	12.1	11.6
Yellow cheese - kg	4.5	4.6	5.1	4.9	4.9
Eggs - in numbers	152	157	160	160	162
Sunflower oil - litres	12.0	12.0	12.0	11.2	10.6
Margarine - kg	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7
Butter - kg	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4
Fresh and frozen fruit - kg	51.9	53.7	56.4	53.6	54.2
Compotes - kg	6.1	6.3	5.4	5.0	4.8
Fresh and frozen vegetables - kg	72.7	73.0	75.9	75.1	75.0
Dry beans - kg	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.1
Lentils - kg	2.7	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.1
Canned vegetables - kg	8.7	9.5	9.5	9.3	9.4
Vegetable juices and nectars - litres	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5
Pickled vegetables - kg	5.4	5.7	4.5	4.3	4.6
Potatoes - kg	26.7	27.2	28.1	27.5	27.2
Sugar - kg	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.3	5.8
Sugar products - kg	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.2
Chocolate products - kg	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.1
Salt - kg	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.6
Vinegar - kg	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Non-alcoholic beverages - litres	70.4	72.1	78.7	82.5	88.4
Alcoholic beverages - litres	32.6	31.7	31.7	32.0	34.9
Cigarettes - in numbers	733	727	781	891	1005



Purchasing power of household

The purchasing power is the quantity of a given kind of goods, which can be bought with the monetary annual household income average per capita if this income is used to buy only this kind of good.

Figure 4. Average monthly household purchasing power per capita in 2023





4. Household purchasing power average per capita

Goods	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Foods				
White bread - kg	4055	4213	4230	3841	4418
Rice - kg	2743	2694	2706	2754	2938
Dry beans - kg	1666	1663	1728	1812	2110
Potatoes - kg	5580	6620	7507	7102	6655
Tomatoes - kg	2915	3022	3088	2925	3180
Cucumbers - kg	3080	3174	3231	3107	3307
Peppers - kg	3383	3391	3329	3254	3630
Apples - kg	4566	4138	4558	4917	5311
Grapes - kg	4295	4399	4302	4613	4437
Milk - litres	4106	4138	4223	4016	4009
Yoghurt - kg	2851	2921	3026	2877	3063
White cheese - kg	845	834	873	786	805
Yellow cheese - kg	520	540	580	532	559
Pork - kg	836	814	952	1001	1005
Poultry meal - kg	1426	1404	1431	1326	1398
Perishable sausages - kg	1027	983	1036	1052	1082
Non-perishables sausages - kg	438	430	462	485	504
Eggs - in numbers	27204	28963	31904	27118	24502
Sugar - kg	5061	5001	5245	4182	4195
Butter - kg	389	460	477	437	511
	Non-foods				
Men's shoes - pair	132	134	172	183	186
Women's shoes - pair	152	155	203	203	221
Children's shoes - pair	206	195	229	222	248
Men's suits - in numbers	46	51	35	60	53
Women's suits - in numbers	86	78	80	91	108
Coal - kg	23	23	22	20	22
Television sets - in numbers	13	14	18	14	18



Poverty indicators

The survey on income and living conditions is considered as the main source of statistical data on incomes and social inclusion along with the common indicators. To calculate indicators of poverty and social inclusion total disposable (net) income per equivalent unit is used. Equivalent scales are used because of the different composition and number of persons in the households. The modified OECD scale is used according to which the first adult aged 14 and more receives weight 1.0, the second adult aged 14 and more receives weight 0.5 and every child aged less than 14 receives weight 0.3. The weights are assigned to every household member and then are summed up so that an equivalent size of the household is obtained. Total disposable (net) income for every household is divided by its equivalent size and thus a net total disposable income per equivalent unit is formed. Data on poverty level show the share of poor people under the poverty line. The last is defined as 60% of the median equivalent disposable income.

Figure 5. At-risk-of-poverty rate by age

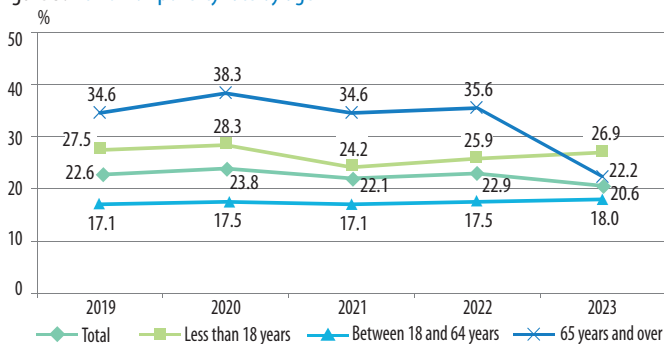
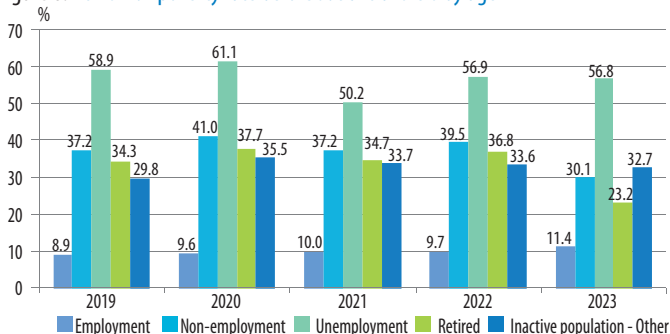


Figure 6. At-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers by age





5. At-risk-of-poverty rate by age

Age	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	22.6	23.8	22.1	22.9	20.6
0 - 17	27.5	28.3	24.2	25.9	26.9
18 - 64	17.1	17.5	17.1	17.5	18.0
65 and over	34.6	38.3	34.6	35.6	22.2

6. At-risk-of-poverty rate by household type

Households type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	22.6	23.8	22.1	22.9	20.6
Households without dependent children	23.2	23.5	22.5	23.3	17.5
One adult younger than 65 years	25.9	24.1	23.6	25.9	24.6
One adult older or equal than 65 years	56.9	61.8	55.4	61.3	36.4
Single female	50.3	53.5	48.6	56.2	32.5
Single male	35.8	36.8	34.7	34.3	30.5
Two adults younger than 65 years	13.5	9.5	10.6	10.2	11.4
Two adults, at least one aged 65 years and over	21.4	23.6	21.3	16.4	10.7
Three or more adults	9.8	8.4	8.0	8.5	7.8
Households with dependent children	22.1	24.2	21.8	22.6	23.6
Single parent with dependent children	41.4	39.5	35.7	34.9	42.8
Two adults with one dependent child	10.7	11.9	13.2	12.2	14.6
Two adults with two dependent children	16.9	19.8	16.1	18.5	21.2
Two adults with three or more dependent children	62.3	59.2	49.3	48.5	55.2
Three or more adults with dependent children	22.8	26.6	24.8	25.6	22.4

7. At-risk-of-poverty rate by most frequent activity status

Activity status	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Employment	8.9	9.6	10.0	9.7	11.4
Non-employment	37.2	41.0	37.2	39.5	30.1
Unemployment	58.9	61.1	50.2	56.9	56.8
Retired	34.3	37.7	34.7	36.8	23.2
Other inactive population	29.8	35.5	33.7	33.6	32.7

8. Inequality of income distribution

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
S80/S20 ¹	8.1	8.0	7.4	7.3	6.6
Gini coefficient	40.8	40.0	39.7	38.4	37.2

¹ Inequality of income distribution S80/S20 income quintile share ratio.

Figure 7. At-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers by age

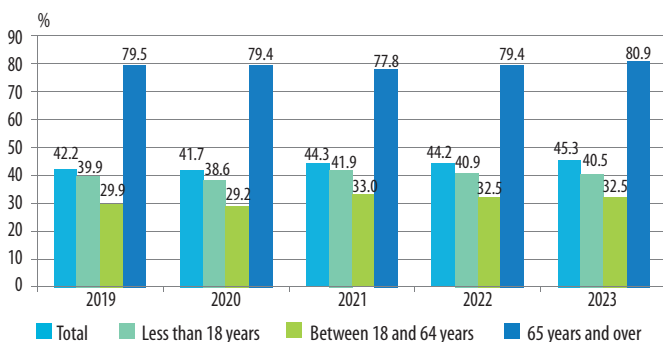
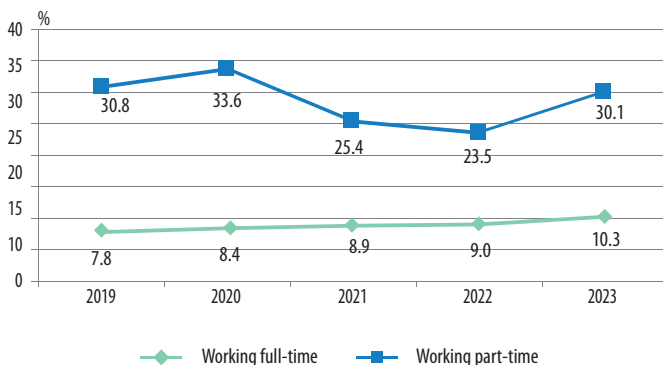


Figure 8. In-work at-risk-of-poverty rate (by full-time/part-time work)



VIII. CRIMINALITY AND JUSTICE





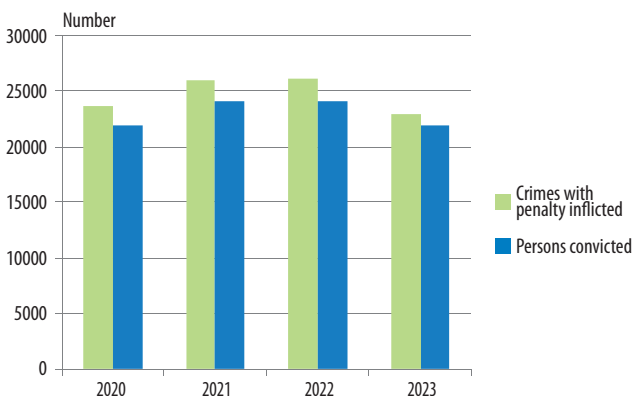
Crimes with penalty inflicted

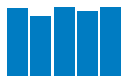
Statistical data on crimes with penalty inflicted and persons convicted are based on the annual data and covered the activity of district, regional and military courts within the territory of the country on penal trials of general, private and administrative nature. Since 2012, data from Special Criminal Court have been included.

The number of crimes includes the information from penal trials with sentence that has come into force during the reference year. Crimes with penalties inflicted include proceedings that finished with conditional or effective sentence, irrespective of the number of perpetrators. A crime committed by more than one person (in complicity) is counted as crime with penalty inflicted when at least one of the accused persons is effective or conditional convicted. When a crime is committed by more than one person, it is reported only once. Crimes committed abroad, which are under the jurisdiction of courts in the Republic of Bulgaria, are included in the total number of crimes.

Sources of the data on crimes with penalty inflicted are the NSI statistical survey and administrative source - the Unified Information System for Counteraction to Criminality, maintained by the Administration of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria. According to the NSI's preliminary data, the number of convicted crimes in 2023 is 22 894.

Figure 1. Crimes with penalty inflicted and persons convicted



1. Crimes with penalty inflicted and persons convicted¹

(Number)

	2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Crimes	Persons convicted	Crimes	Persons convicted	Crimes	Persons convicted	Crimes	Persons convicted
Total	23640	21889	25988	24121	26088	24047	22894	22003
of which:								
Crimes against the person	1833	1460	1763	1517	1726	1373	1409	1219
of which:								
Homicide (committed and attempted)	59	64	71	75	53	55	39	43
Bodily harm	732	667	767	722	720	653	639	603
Depravity	313	245	260	217	242	198	151	155
of which: Rape (committed and attempted)	53	51	47	44	32	28	21	21
Crimes against marriage, family and youth	633	595	617	580	599	569	562	550
Crimes against the property	4704	5106	4744	5147	4617	5052	4177	4548
of which:								
Theft	3145	3571	3261	3704	3217	3693	2985	3351
Robbery	500	589	444	511	411	481	386	433
Misappropriation	104	98	109	108	75	75	48	48
Crimes against the economy	1220	1230	1245	1248	1082	1064	883	884
Crimes against the financial, tax and insurance systems	72	57	100	92	89	78	71	52
Crimes against the activity of state bodies, public organisations and persons performing public duties	1241	1097	2153	1968	2715	2458	2453	2394
Documentary crimes	839	685	1018	798	1158	945	854	751
Crimes against the order and the public peace	469	461	479	411	453	406	385	352
of which: Hooliganism	343	309	370	288	356	296	271	235
Generally dangerous crimes	12452	11025	13654	12163	13428	11902	11899	11054
of which:								
Crimes against the transport and communications	8312	7438	9197	8323	9598	8666	8305	7734
Theft of motor vehicle	159	168	192	199	164	174	174	189
Drug-related crimes	2778	2327	3298	2753	2938	2413	2859	2540
Military crimes	4	2	3	3	5	4	5	5

¹ According to the sentences into force.



Persons convicted

The number of persons convicted during a certain year includes those with effective or conditional sentence has come into force during the same year. In case there is convicted person for more than one committed crime in one proceeding, the most severe punishment is counted. If a person is convicted for several crimes, the person is counted as the most serious punishable offence and each crime separately according to the respective type of crime. The number of persons convicted does not coincide with the actual number, as during the calendar year, a person may be convicted more than once. The age of persons convicted is in completed years by the date of commitment of the crime. Persons, who have completed 14 years of age, but not 18 years, are considered juveniles. Persons who have completed 14 years of age are considered to be penalty responsible.

In accordance with the NSI's preliminary data, the number of persons convicted in 2023 is 22 003.

Figure 2. Persons convicted by sex

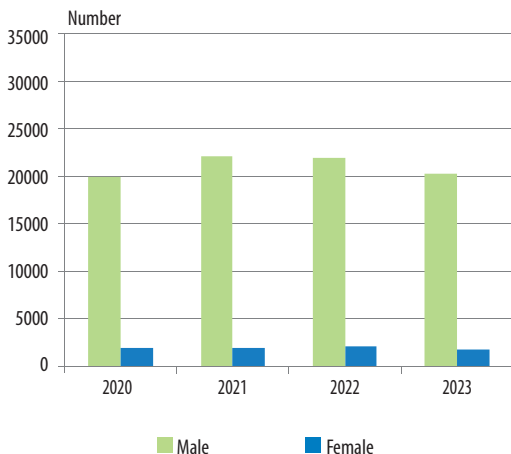
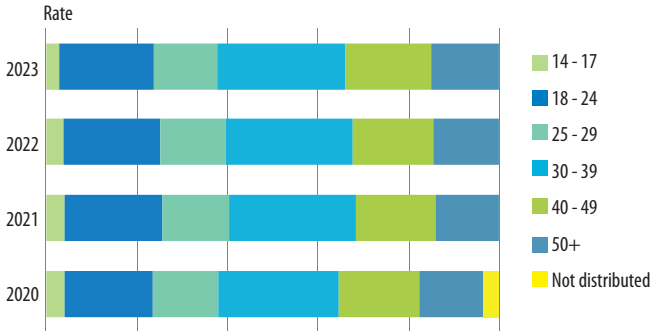




Figure 3. Distribution of persons convicted by age

2. Persons convicted by sex¹

Sex	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Number			
Total	21889	24121	24047	22003
Male	19884	22107	21973	20235
Female	2005	2014	2074	1768
	Structure - %			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Male	90.8	91.7	91.4	92.0
Female	9.2	8.3	8.6	8.0

3. Persons convicted by age¹

Age	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Number			
Total	21889	24121	24047	22003
14 - 17	874	963	912	650
18 - 24	4296	5262	5155	4582
25 - 29	3150	3516	3480	3058
30 - 39	5834	6739	6705	6226
40 - 49	3879	4270	4316	4181
50 and over	3136	3371	3479	3306
Not distributed	720	-	-	-
	Structure - %			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
14 - 17	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.0
18 - 24	19.6	21.8	21.4	20.8
25 - 29	14.4	14.6	14.5	13.9
30 - 39	26.7	27.9	27.9	28.3
40 - 49	17.7	17.7	17.9	19.0
50 and over	14.3	14.0	14.5	15.0
Not distributed	3.3	-	-	-

¹ According to the sentences in force.

IX. NATIONAL ACCOUNTS





Gross domestic product

The national accounts of Bulgaria are compiled in accordance with the main methodological recommendations of the documents 'European System of Accounts, 2010' (ESA 2010) issued by Eurostat and the 'System of National Accounts, 2008' (SNA 2008), a joint issue of the UN, OECD, Eurostat, IMF and the World Bank. The main macroeconomic indicator of the System of National Accounts is Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

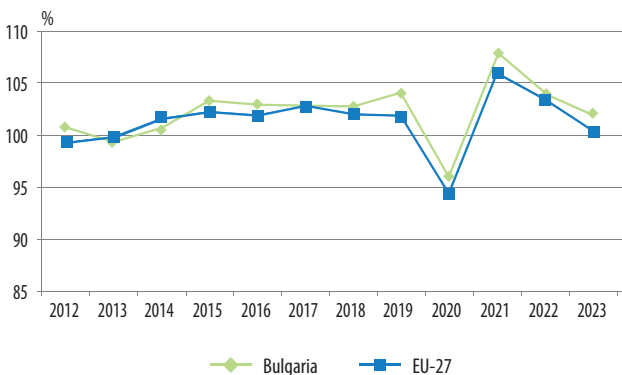
GDP estimates are an indicator for the trends in the development of the respective economy and they can be treated as an indicator for the economic policies at the macroeconomic level.

Gross domestic product represents a balanced estimate of the data performed by using the following three approaches:

- Production approach (output approach);
- Final expenditures approach;
- Income approach.

Every approach is based on different economic aggregates, which, put together, represent a generalization of the logical interrelations within the system of national accounts. A fundamental requirement of the system is the independence of the three different estimates, i.e., every component of GDP calculated according to the different approaches should be estimated independently and on its own.

Figure 1. Volume indices of GDP
(Preceding year = 100)





1. Gross domestic product per capita

	2020	2021	2022	2023*
BGN	17377	20207	25956	28516
Euro	8885	10332	13271	14580
USD	10130	12213	13941	15761
Exchange rate - USD/BGN	1.715	1.655	1.862	1.809

2. Gross domestic product and gross value added by economic sector and economic activity groupings at current prices

(Million BGN)

Economic sector and economic activity groupings	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4205	6071	6480	5571
Mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	21184	24405	37145	40430
Construction	5113	4573	5563	6180
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; transportation and storage; accommodation and food service activities	22384	28345	32746	35621
Information and communication	8608	9211	10806	12075
Financial and insurance activities	6255	8217	9691	10386
Real estate activities	10207	11068	12308	13039
Professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities	7228	8061	9396	10188
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security; education; human health and social work activities	17354	19600	22703	25138
Arts, entertainment and recreation, repair of household goods and other services	1980	2024	2327	2568
Gross value added at basic prices	104518	121574	149164	161195
Adjustments (taxes less subsidies on products)	15974	17405	18645	22549
Taxes on products	16733	19356	24936	24293
Subsidies on products	759	1951	6291	1744
Gross Domestic Product	120492	138979	167809	183743

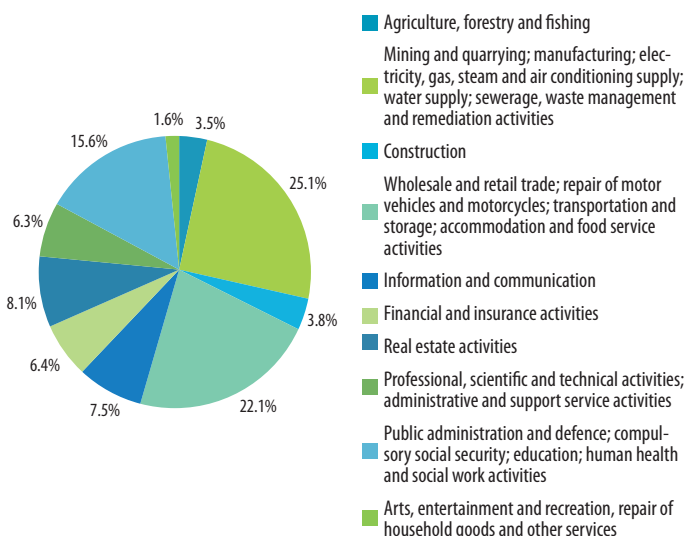
Gross value added

Gross domestic product (GDP) is calculated along the production approach as the sum of the gross value added at basic prices for the economy as a whole and of the adjustments, which include net taxes on products (taxes less subsidies), value added tax and import duties. On its own, the gross value added is a balancing item of the 'Output' account and determines the result of the production process as the difference between gross output and the goods and services used in this process, that is, the intermediate consumption.

Output (at basic prices) is the value of produced goods and services resulting from the production activity of resident units during the relevant period.

Intermediate consumption includes the value of all goods and services, transformed or entirely used up in the production process during the corresponding period except for the consumption of fixed assets recorded as consumption of fixed capital (amortization).

Figure 2. Structure of GVA by economic sector and economic activity groupings in 2023*

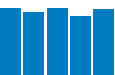




3. Volume indices of GDP and GVA by economic sector and economic activity groupings

(Preceding year = 100)

Economic sector and economic activity groupings	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	96.7	128.8	95.6	96.1
Mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	90.5	105.4	113.1	100.9
Construction	99.0	82.9	105.4	100.7
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; transportation and storage; accommodation and food service activities	93.6	114.5	100.9	101.9
Information and communication	104.1	106.2	101.6	100.4
Financial and insurance activities	108.3	123.7	108.0	100.9
Real estate activities	93.6	107.7	104.1	100.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities	95.2	110.1	105.0	99.3
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security; education; human health and social work activities	103.0	100.9	107.0	101.1
Arts, entertainment and recreation, repair of household goods and other services	75.8	99.6	100.4	98.7
Gross value added at basic prices	96.0	108.0	105.3	100.8
Adjustments (taxes less subsidies on products)	96.3	105.3	94.1	110.5
Gross Domestic Product	96.0	107.7	103.9	101.8



Compensation of employees and gross operating surplus/ gross mixed income

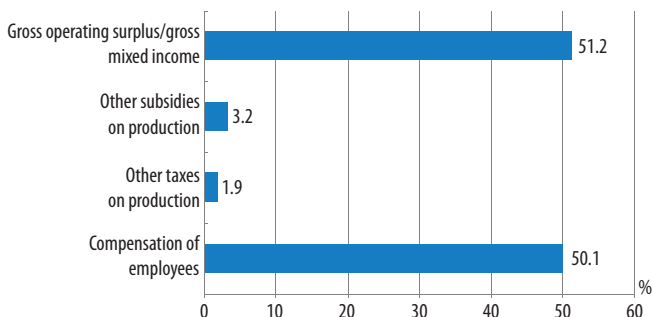
The income approach is compiled simultaneously with the production approach for GDP estimation; it characterizes the activity in which the primary incomes of the participants in the production process originate. According to the income approach for GDP estimation, GDP consists of the compensation of the employees, of the net taxes on production and imports, and of the gross operating surplus/gross mixed income and adjustments.

The compensation of the employees includes the total remuneration, in cash or in kind, paid by the employer to the employees in return for work done by the latter during the accounting period, including the social and health insurance contributions payable by the employer according to the national labour legislation.

Other net taxes on production and imports (taxes minus subsidies) are included as a component of the value added by economic sectors and represent output related unrequited payments of the employers to the state budget less the production subsidies granted by the state budget to the economic units.

Gross operating surplus/gross mixed income is a balancing item for the income approach. It is a measure of the results achieved by the production activities of the economic units. The gross operating surplus is calculated as the difference between the gross value added, the compensation of the employees, and the net taxes on production and imports.

Figure 3. Structure of GVA by income approach in 2023*





4. Gross domestic product by value added component at current prices

(Million BGN)

	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Compensation of employees	54575	61328	70304	80811
Net taxes on production (other taxes minus subsidies)	-3512	-4716	-1870	-2227
Operating surplus and mixed income, gross	53454	64962	80730	82611
Consumption of fixed capital	17036	17947	18948	x
Operating surplus and mixed income, net	36418	47015	61782	x
Gross value added at basic prices	104518	121574	149164	161195
Adjustments	15974	17405	18645	22549
GDP at market prices	120492	138979	167809	183743

Investments and consumption

According to the final expenditure approach, GDP is calculated as a sum of individual consumption, collective consumption, gross fixed capital formation, changes in inventories and the net exports of goods and services.

Individual household consumption consists of final household consumption expenditure, government final consumption expenditure for the provision of individual services to households and final consumption expenditure of the non-profit institutions serving households.

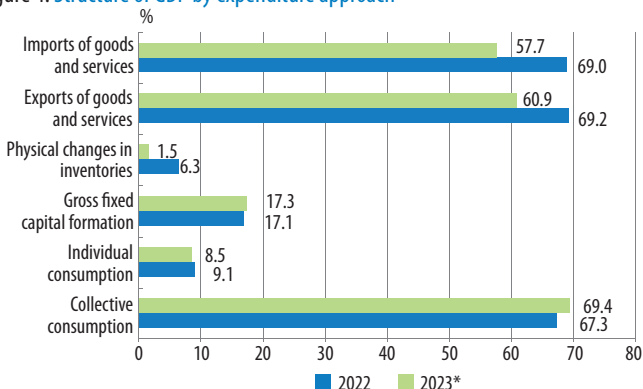
Collective consumption is measured by the final consumption expenditure of government on collective services provided to society as a whole.

Gross fixed capital formation includes expenditure on acquisition of fixed non-financial assets, including the increase of uncompleted construction less revenues from sales of existing fixed assets.

Changes in inventories include the change in materials and supplies, work-in-progress, finished goods and goods for resale in the enterprises, as well as the changes of households inventories resulting from their unincorporated activity.

Net exports of goods and services (exports minus imports of goods and services) as a final use GDP component represents the difference between the values of the exports and imports of goods and services. Exports and imports are valued at FOB prices.

Figure 4. Structure of GDP by expenditure approach





5. Gross domestic product by expenditure approach, current prices

(Million BGN)

	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Gross domestic product	120492	138979	167809	183743
Final consumption	93648	107144	128237	143292
Individual consumption	82015	94618	113011	127594
Collective consumption	11633	12526	15226	15698
Gross capital formation	24515	29296	39228	34636
Gross fixed capital formation	22981	22720	28627	31796
Changes in inventories	1534	6576	10600	2839
Net exports	2329	2540	344	5816
Exports of goods and services	67633	85335	116114	111868
Imports of goods and services	65304	82795	115769	106052
Statistical discrepancy	0	0	0	0

6. Volume indices of GDP by expenditure approach

(Preceding year = 100)

	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Gross domestic product	96.0	107.7	103.9	101.8
Final consumption	101.4	106.5	104.2	104.0
Individual consumption	100.7	107.9	103.9	105.0
Collective consumption	106.9	96.5	106.7	96.9
Gross capital formation	95.2	110.8	111.5	81.9
Gross fixed capital formation	100.6	91.7	106.5	103.3
Changes in inventories	.	.	.	.
Net exports	.	.	.	.
Exports of goods and services	89.6	111.2	111.6	98.1
Imports of goods and services	95.7	110.7	115.0	93.7
Statistical discrepancy	.	.	.	.

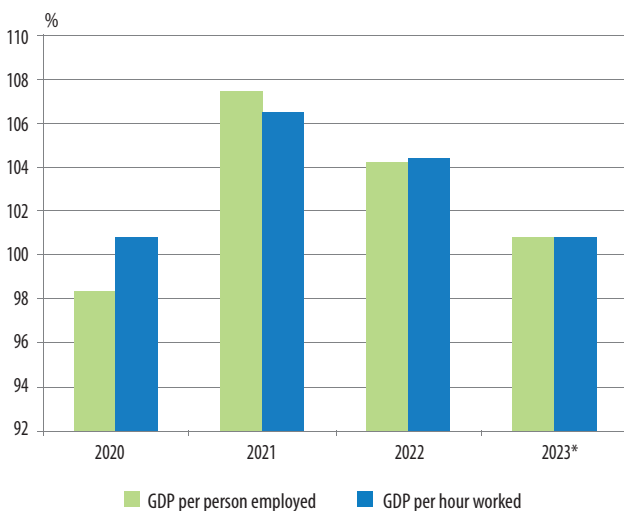
Labour productivity

Labour productivity is a compound economic indicator, which compares the accomplished result (the newly created product) with the labour input used in a given economic activity within a certain economic area during a specified period of time. The main components of labour productivity are indicators measuring the result of the performed productive activity (as a numerator), and indicators related to the labour input in the production process (as a denominator).

For the purposes of international comparisons, GDP is the preferred measure for the labour productivity of the various national economies.

Using GVA is appropriate for estimating labour productivity at the national level as well as at the production activity level.

Figure 5. Volume indices of GDP per person employed and hour worked
(Preceding year = 100)





7. Gross domestic product per employed and hour worked at current prices

(BGN)

	2020	2021	2022	2023*
GDP per employed	34908	40186	48687	52789
GDP per hour worked	21.8	24.8	30.1	32.6

8. Gross value added per employed and hour worked by economic sector at the same year prices¹

(BGN)

Economic sectors	Per employed			Per hour worked		
	2021	2022	2023*	2021	2022	2023*
Agriculture	10854	12390	10775	7.4	8.6	7.7
Industry	33079	49550	54391	20.0	29.8	32.5
Services	38717	44001	47177	23.5	26.8	28.7
Total of economy	32783	40592	43546	20.2	25.1	26.9

9. Volume indices of GVA per employed and hour worked by economic sector¹

(Preceding year = 100)

Economic sectors	Per employed			Per hour worked		
	2021	2022	2023*	2021	2022	2023*
Agriculture	137.2	102.2	97.2	136.4	104.0	99.9
Industry	100.1	113.8	101.5	99.9	113.5	100.7
Services	108.1	101.7	99.9	106.9	101.8	99.7
Total of economy	108.2	105.7	100.5	107.1	105.9	100.4

¹ GVA of the imputed rent is not included in the estimation of labour productivity.

X. FINANCE



Monetary aggregates

Money supply comprises liabilities with money character of monetary financial institutions (MFIs) to the resident sectors with exception of the liabilities to the Central government sector and the Monetary financial institutions sector. It is measured using the following monetary aggregates: M1, M2 and M3.

The monetary aggregate M1 - 'narrow money' - includes the most liquid instruments used in settlements (currency outside the MFIs and overnight deposits in national and foreign currency).

The 'Currency outside monetary financial institutions' indicator represents currency in circulation less cash in BGN held by other monetary financial institutions.

Overnight deposits include deposits without an agreed maturity, which are immediately convertible into currency or transferable on demand through banker's order or by cheque without significant restrictions or penalties. One-day deposits and also transferable deposits are included in this item. Transferable saving deposits are included in transferable deposits.

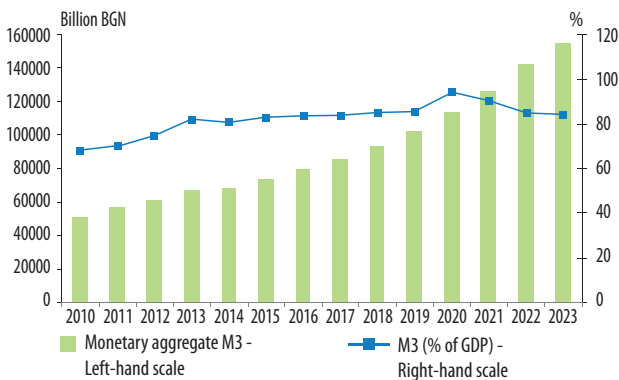
The monetary aggregate M2 includes monetary aggregate M1 and quasi-money.

Quasi-money comprise deposits with agreed maturity of up to two years and deposits redeemable at notice (incl. non-transferable savings deposits) up to three months. Deposits with agreed maturity are not immediately available as they have an agreed term prior to withdrawal. Received loans are also included under this category. Deposits redeemable at notice include non-transferable savings deposits and other deposits redeemable at notice.

The monetary aggregate M3 (broad money) includes monetary aggregate M2 and marketable instruments.

Marketable instruments consist of repos, money market funds shares/units and debt securities issued up to two years.

Figure 1. Monetary aggregate M3





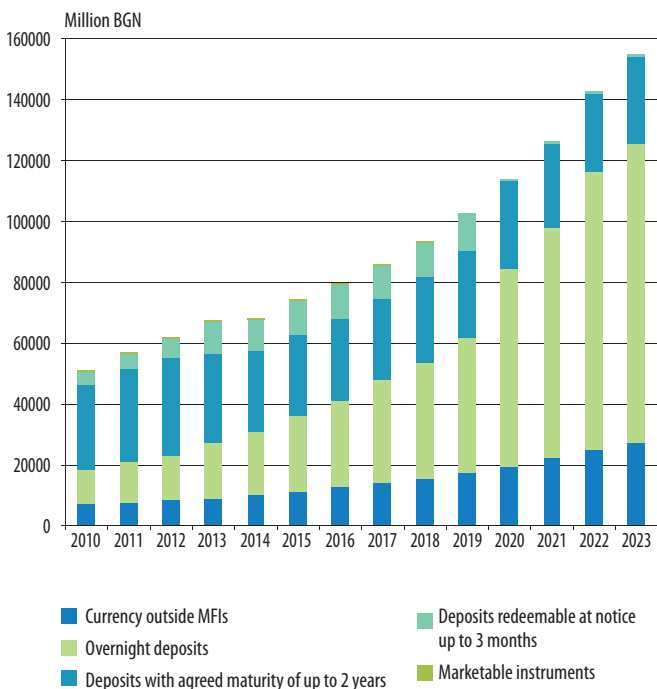
1. Money supply as of 31.12.^{1,2}

(Million BGN)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Broad money M3	113619.5	125776.2	142370.9	154757.7
Money M1	83998.2	97827.8	115979.7	125285.9
Currency outside MFIs	19290.7	22377.6	24998.4	27134.5
Overnight deposits	64707.5	75450.2	90981.3	98151.4
Money M2 (M1 + quasi-money)	113619.5	125776.2	142370.9	154757.7
Quasi-money	29621.3	27948.4	26391.2	29471.8
Deposits with agreed maturity up to 2 years	29048.0	27339.0	25764.4	28871.4
Deposits redeemable at notice up to 3 months	573.3	609.5	626.8	600.4
Marketable instruments (debt securities issued up to 2 years+ MMFs shares/units + repos)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

¹ Source: BNB.² The definition of monetary aggregates is in accordance with the requirements of the ECB.

Figure 2. Components of the monetary aggregate M3

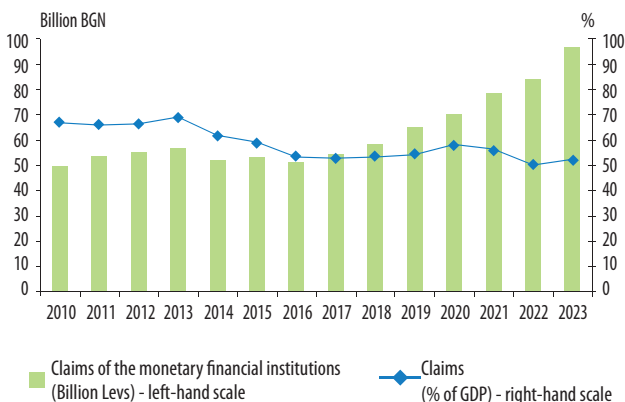


Claims of the monetary financial institutions on government and non-government sectors

Claims of the monetary financial institutions on government and non-government sectors represent domestic credit, which is part of the net domestic assets included in the Monetary survey. It is part of the monthly monetary statistics published by the Bulgarian National Bank.

Domestic credit covers credit to the consolidated general government sector (net claims on the central government sector, and gross claims on sectors local government and social security funds) and credit to the non-government sector (gross claims on non-financial corporations, financial corporations, households and NPISHs).

Figure 3. Claims of the monetary financial institutions on government and non-government sectors





2. Claims of MFIs on government and non-government sectors as of 31.12.¹

(Million BGN)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Claims on General government	2793.8	5183.9	1821.6	4046.1
Central government (net)	2365.2	4800.1	1432.8	3548.8
Claims	11710.3	14679.3	14689.0	15582.8
Government securities	11099.3	14041.4	14071.4	15103.9
Repos	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Loans	611.0	637.9	617.6	478.9
Less: liabilities (deposits and repos)	9345.2	9879.3	13256.2	12034.0
Local government and Social security funds	428.6	383.8	388.8	497.3
Securities other than shares	83.3	68.4	59.6	32.1
Repos	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Loans	345.3	315.4	329.2	465.2
Claims on non-government sector	67504.5	73475.0	82636.1	92719.8
Non-financial corporations	36572.9	38283.2	42176.0	45399.0
Repos	368.0	355.9	404.0	555.8
Loans	35643.1	37280.0	41146.2	44142.2
Securities other than shares	369.5	432.3	428.4	496.0
Shares and other equity	192.3	215.0	197.4	205.0
Financial corporations	5438.8	6283.9	7333.0	8924.3
Repos	47.2	40.0	51.9	86.7
Loans	4321.6	4968.7	5946.0	7486.3
Securities other than shares	352.9	534.4	620.9	651.2
Shares and other equity	717.1	740.8	714.2	700.1
Households and NPISHs	25492.8	28907.9	33127.1	38396.5
Repos	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
Loans	25491.7	28907.6	33126.8	38396.2

¹ Source: BNB.

Interest rates

Interest rates refer to BGN denominated instruments. They are average weighted with the respective volumes except for the base interest rate and the long-term interest rate (LTIR) for convergence assessment purposes which are calculated as simple average values.

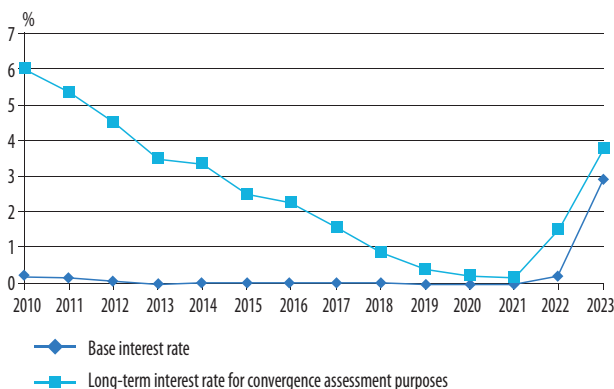
Yield on long-term government securities is the average weighted effective yield to maturity on individual transactions in interest-bearing government securities on the secondary market during the reporting period. The yield is calculated using the ISMA formula at ACT/365 day count convention. The securities are grouped by their original maturity.

The long-term interest rate for convergence assessment purposes is determined on the basis of the secondary market yield to maturity of a long-term government bond (benchmark bond) issued by the Ministry of Finance and denominated in national currency.

The annual effective interest rates are average weighted with the volumes of new business throughout the reporting period or the outstanding amounts as of the end of the reporting period. These are the interest rates applied by the banks on loans and deposits vis-a-vis resident 'Non-financial corporations' and 'Households and NPISHs' sectors.

The annual percentage rate of charge comprises all interest payments on a loan, as well as all fees, commissions and other charges a client has to pay in order to obtain the loan. It is calculated for consumer loans and loans for house purchases only.

Figure 4. Dynamics of the interest rates





3. Interest rates^{1,2}

	(Per cent)			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Base interest rate	0.00	0.00	0.20	2.90
Interbank money market	-0.62	-0.62	0.74	3.21
Yield on long-term government securities	0.25	0.28	1.15	3.48
Long-term interest rate for convergence assessment purposes	0.25	0.19	1.53	3.76
New business ³				
Deposits with agreed maturity	0.06	0.00	0.07	1.48
Short-term loans, other than overdraft	5.47	5.90	4.90	7.25
Long-term loans, other than overdraft	4.22	4.19	4.19	4.85
Annual percentage rate of charge	6.70	6.10	6.00	6.22
Outstanding amounts ³				
Overnight deposits ⁴	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02
Deposits with agreed maturity	0.16	0.08	0.10	0.40
Overdraft ⁴	4.14	3.86	3.89	4.66
Short-term loans, other than overdraft	6.07	6.08	5.87	7.29
Long-term loans, other than overdraft	4.34	4.05	4.00	4.27

¹ Source: BNB.

² The interest rates are on BGN instruments.

³ Effective annual rates applied by banks on loans and deposits vis-a-vis Non-financial corporations and Households and Non-profit institutions serving households (NPISHs) sectors.

⁴ The interest rates on new business and on outstanding amounts coincide.

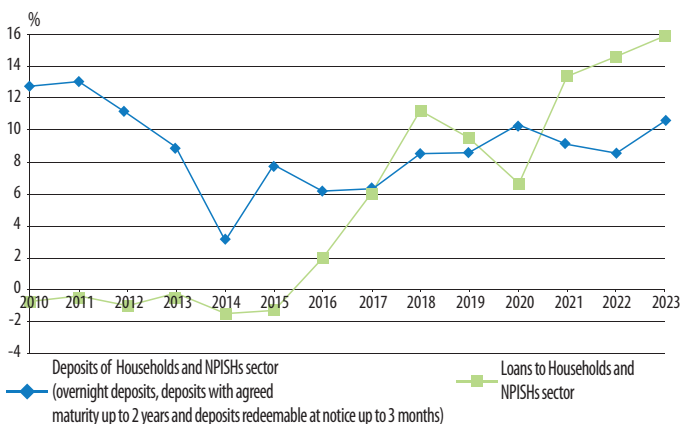
Deposits and loans of Households and NPISHs sector

Deposits are funds accepted by the monetary financial institutions, and can be payable at sight, without any notice, upon notice or under other previously agreed payment conditions. Deposits are accepted upon agreement between the parties concerning the terms and conditions for the keeping of the deposit accounts, interest rate, the time of repayment and the penalties for the parties in case of failure to perform their obligations. The deposits are liabilities of financial institutions.

Deposits with agreed maturity are not immediately available as they have an agreed term prior to withdrawal. These deposits cannot be used for payments purposes and are not convertible into cash money without any significant restrictions or penalties. Received loans are also included under this category.

Deposits redeemable at notice include non-transferable savings deposits and other deposits redeemable at notice. Savings deposits are non-transferable deposits without specified maturity used for safekeeping the funds of households against issuance of a personal savings book or an analogous document. These include deposits on house purchase, children's deposits and other deposits. Other deposits redeemable at notice are non-transferable deposits without specified maturity which cannot be converted into currency without any notice. Their conversion into cash is not possible or they can be converted into cash prior to the term of the notice but by imposing a sanction. Non-transferable deposits with specified maturity which can be converted into cash prior to maturity only at notice are also included.

Figure 5. Annual change of deposits and loans of Households and NPISHs sector





Loans are financial assets created to provide the borrowers with funds, goods, or services. Terms and conditions of loans (fixed by the creditor or negotiated) are usually evidenced by non-transferable document. Loan is an unconditional debt which has to be repaid upon maturity and which generates income in the form of interest. Margin deposits made by the reporting agents are also included in the 'Financial corporations' sector.

Overdrafts represent debit balance on a current account. Repayment is automatic upon receipt of funds on the respective current account. Both overdrafts with pre-agreed interest terms and amounts and without pre-agreed terms are included.

Consumer loans - loans granted for the purpose of purchase of goods and services for personal use of the households.

Loans for house purchases - loans extended to households for the purpose of investing in housing for own use or rental, including building and home improvements.

Other loans - all other loans extended to households, including loans for education and medical treatment. Loans for commercial or production purposes and loans to NPISHs are also included in the indicator.

4. Deposits and loans of Households and NPISHs sector as of 31.12.¹

(Million BGN)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Deposits of Households and NPISHs sector	59399.9	64804.2	70361.4	77767.8
In BGN	37246.4	41918.7	46449.6	53388.2
Deposits with agreed maturity up to 2 years	12119.5	11121.8	10513.9	11034.6
Deposits redeemable at notice up to 3 months	318.6	338.2	347.9	334.2
Overnight deposits	24808.3	30458.7	35587.8	42019.4
In foreign currency ²	22153.5	22885.5	23911.8	24379.6
Loans to Households and NPISHs sector	25491.7	28907.5	33126.9	38396.2
In BGN	23572.7	27240.8	31691.8	37199.9
Overdraft	1108.7	1106.8	1160.1	1215.2
Consumer loans	11491.7	12996.1	14698.8	16586.8
Loans for house purchases	10596.0	12800.6	15454.8	19013.6
Other loans	376.3	337.3	378.1	384.3
In foreign currency ³	1919.0	1666.7	1435.1	1196.3

¹ Source: BNB.

² The indicator includes data on overnight deposits, deposits with agreed maturity up to 2 years and deposits redeemable at notice up to 3 months.

³ The indicator includes data on overdraft, consumer loans, loans for house purchases and other loans.

XI. PRICES



Consumer price indices - annual inflation

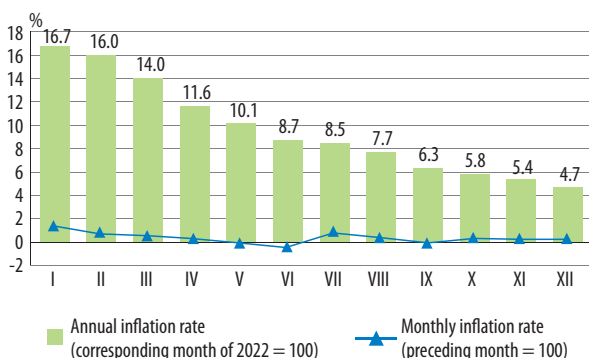
The consumer price index is an official measure of the inflation in the Republic of Bulgaria. It measures the total relative price change of goods and services used by households for private (non-production) consumption and it is calculated by applying the structure of the final monetary consumption expenditures of Bulgarian households. The main source of information concerning the expenditures is the Households budget survey in the country. CPI in year t is calculated with structure of expenditures for year $t - 1$. Since 1999, NSI has applied a methodology for constructing and calculating consumer price index, according to Eurostat and requirements and International Monetary Fund recommendations. For ensuring the comparable consumer price index series, monthly consumer price indices are revised for the period from January 1995 to December 2000.

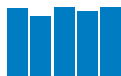
The chain consumer price indices measure the price change in current month compared to the previous month. The chain consumer price indices are used as a measure of monthly inflation.

The 12-month consumer price indices measure the price change between the current month and the same month of the previous year. The 12-month consumer price indices are used as a measure of annual inflation.

Consumer price indices over December of the previous year measure the accumulated changes in the prices of the current month with respect to December of the previous year. Consumer price indices over December of the previous year have been used as measures of the inflation since the beginning of the year. In December each year, the 12-month index is equal to the consumer price index over December of the previous year.

Figure 1. Consumer price indices by months in 2023
(Annual and monthly inflation rates)





1. Annual consumer price indices by main commodity groups

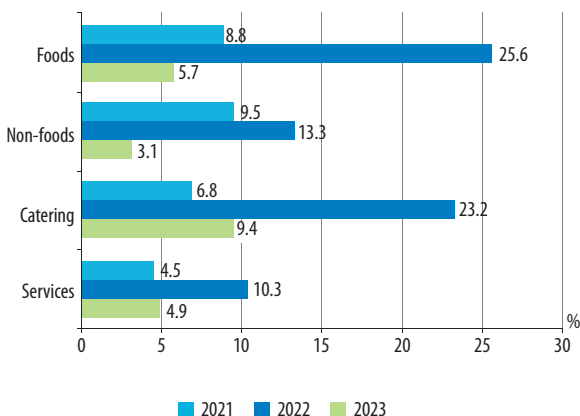
(Annual inflation rates)

(December of the current year compared to December of the preceding year)

Commodity groups	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	0.1	7.8	16.9	4.7
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	1.9	8.9	26.1	5.6
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0.5	1.4	3.7	6.3
Clothing and footwear	-4.9	2.8	7.6	3.1
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	0.9	11.6	19.9	0.5
Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance	0.7	4.8	13.9	5.1
Health	1.8	0.9	8.7	8.1
Transport	-9.4	22.2	8.1	3.3
Communication	0.0	-5.3	5.9	2.7
Recreation and culture	1.2	5.6	14.8	3.3
Education	4.7	4.8	10.3	8.2
Restaurants and hotels	3.1	6.7	21.0	9.5
Miscellaneous goods and services	1.3	3.3	11.0	8.8

Figure 2. Consumer price indices by commodity groups

(Annual inflation rates)



Consumer price indices - annual average inflation

The annual average consumer price indices measure the average price change during the 12 months of the current year compared to the average price change during the 12 months of the previous year. The annual average consumer price indices are used as a measure of the annual average inflation.

Figure 3. Consumer price indices
(Annual average inflation rates)

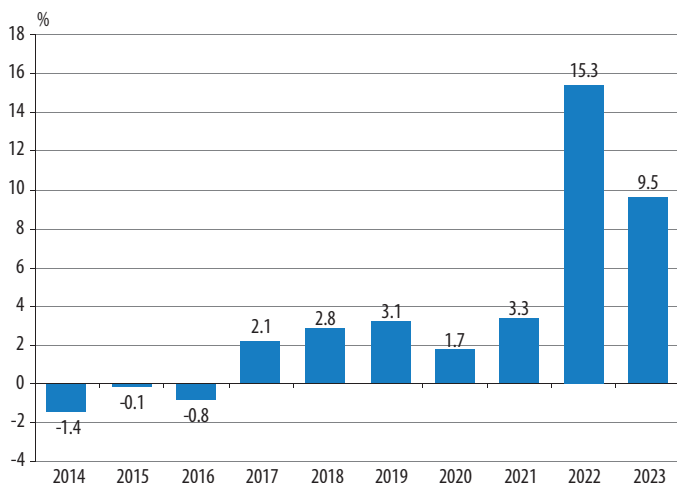
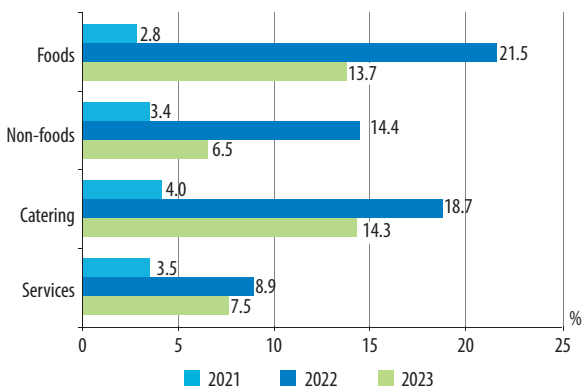


Figure 4. Consumer price indices by commodity groups
(Annual average inflation rates)





2. Annual average consumer price indices

(1995 = 100)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
All items	7147.93	7383.61	8515.77	9321.28

3. Annual average consumer price indices by main commodity groups

(Annual average inflation rates)

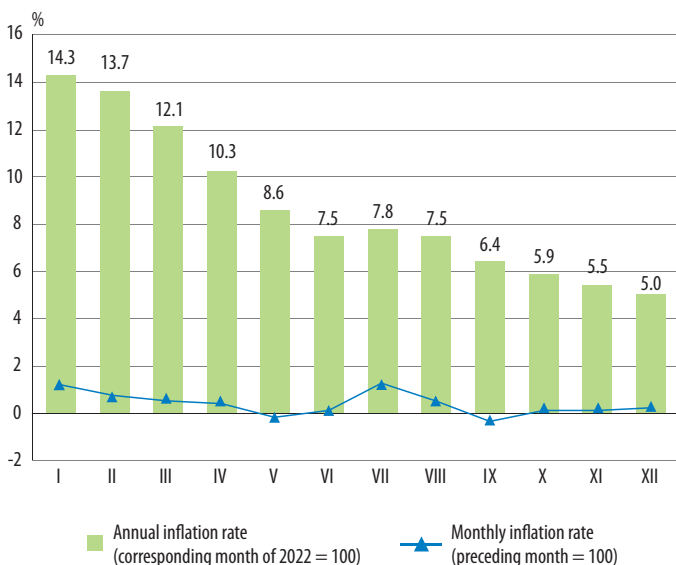
(Preceding year = 100)

Commodity groups	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	1.7	3.3	15.3	9.5
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	5.4	2.8	22.0	13.7
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	1.6	0.8	2.6	6.1
Clothing and footwear	-1.7	-1.1	6.6	5.7
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	1.0	4.8	19.7	7.1
Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance	0.9	1.9	11.6	9.0
Health	2.8	0.8	3.2	11.6
Transport	-7.3	10.4	22.7	-1.8
Communication	-1.4	-2.6	0.7	5.5
Recreation and culture	0.6	5.8	10.9	12.4
Education	3.8	4.8	7.0	10.1
Restaurants and hotels	4.7	3.2	17.6	13.5
Miscellaneous goods and services	1.7	1.6	6.5	12.2

Harmonized index of consumer prices

The Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices is the comparable measure of inflation across EU Member States. It is one of the criteria of price stability and for readiness of Bulgaria to join the euro-zone. HICP, just as CPI, measures the total relative price change of goods and services. Both indices are calculated using the same basket of goods and services, but differ with respect to the used weights. HICP is calculated through the use of weights, which reflect the individual and the collective consumption of all households (incl. institutional and foreign households) on the economic territory of the country. The main source of information for HICP weights is the national accounts data. HICP in year t is calculated with the weights of year $t-2$. In compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 2015/2010, **since January 2016, the base year for HICP has been changed** and the all indices have been calculated and published at **2015 as a base year**. The time series have been recalculated according to the new base year and have been posted on the NSI website (www.nsi.bg).

Figure 5. Harmonized indices of consumer prices by months in 2023
(Annual and monthly inflation rates)



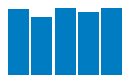
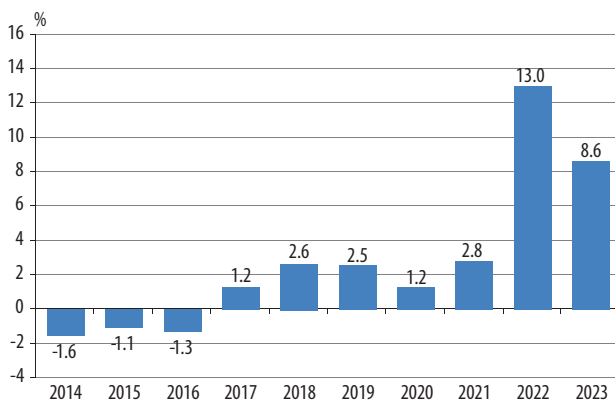


Figure 6. Harmonized indices of consumer prices
(Annual average inflation rates)



4. Annual average harmonized indices of consumer prices

(2015 = 100)

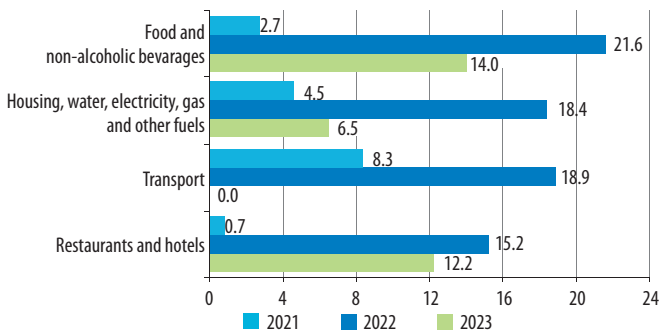
	2020	2021	2022	2023
All items	106.27	109.30	123.52	134.15

5. Annual average harmonized indices of consumer prices by main commodity groups (Annual average inflation rates)

(Preceding year = 100)

Commodity groups	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	1.2	2.8	13.0	8.6
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	5.1	2.7	21.6	14.0
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	1.7	1.0	3.2	6.5
Clothing and footwear	-1.2	-0.9	6.7	5.9
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	1.1	4.5	18.4	6.5
Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance	0.5	2.4	11.4	8.0
Health	2.6	0.8	3.2	11.5
Transport	-5.0	8.3	18.9	0.0
Communication	-1.4	-2.6	0.7	5.5
Recreation and culture	0.8	3.5	6.4	7.6
Education	3.6	4.9	7.4	9.5
Restaurants and hotels	2.7	0.7	15.2	12.2
Miscellaneous goods and services	3.1	3.3	6.2	10.8

Figure 7. Harmonized indices of consumer prices by selected commodity groups
(Annual average inflation rates)



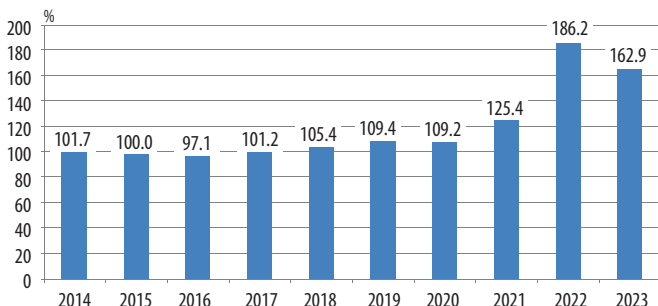
Industrial producer price indices on the domestic market

The industrial producer price indices on the domestic market measure the average price changes of industrial products produced by industrial enterprises and sold on the domestic market, on the basis of a permanent sample of enterprises and products. Surveyed prices do not include VAT, excises and subsidies.

Information for calculation of PPI is received on the bases of monthly surveys on producer prices of industrial products, where the prices of specific products with equal quality in the two surveyed time periods are compared, and also in the case of quality change of the surveyed specific products, this quality change is taken into account.

Price indices are calculated at fixed base year, where indices at different level of detail are calculated as weighted average though ascending weighing system, following the structure of Classification of Economic Activities (NACE.BG - 2008).

Figure 8. Producer price indices on the domestic market
(2015 = 100)





6. Producer price indices on the domestic market in industry by economic activities

	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
	2015 = 100			Preceding year = 100		
Total	125.4	186.2	162.9	114.9	148.4	87.5
Mining and quarrying	124.5	140.2	142.0	118.5	112.6	101.3
Manufacturing	113.7	144.6	149.9	109.6	127.1	103.7
Manufacture of food products, beverages and tobacco products	114.9	138.0	155.9	105.0	120.1	113.0
Manufacture of textiles, wearing apparel, leather and related products	106.9	117.2	132.2	100.5	109.6	112.8
Manufacture of wood and paper products, and printing	111.0	143.9	152.5	106.1	129.6	106.0
Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products	..	..	..	..	..	..
Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	128.7	197.7	165.7	126.0	153.6	83.8
Manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical and botanical products	110.7	116.4	127.4	102.2	105.1	109.4
Manufacture of rubber and plastic products, and other non-metallic mineral products	107.0	130.3	145.7	105.1	121.8	111.8
Manufacture of basic metals and fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	126.2	156.3	152.0	118.1	123.9	97.3
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	104.7	112.0	120.1	101.8	107.0	107.3
Manufacture of electrical equipment	116.2	133.9	142.0	109.2	115.2	106.0
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	111.5	124.6	137.9	102.6	111.7	110.7
Manufacture of transport equipment	109.5	113.7	125.8	101.8	103.8	110.7
Other manufacturing, and repair and installation of machinery and equipment	114.0	128.5	143.3	103.1	112.7	111.5
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	146.4	268.3	188.8	123.3	183.3	70.4

Producer price indices in agriculture

The survey of producer prices in agriculture is carried out in accordance with the main requirements of the Eurostat agricultural price statistics methodology (i.e., the Handbook of Agricultural Price Statistics).

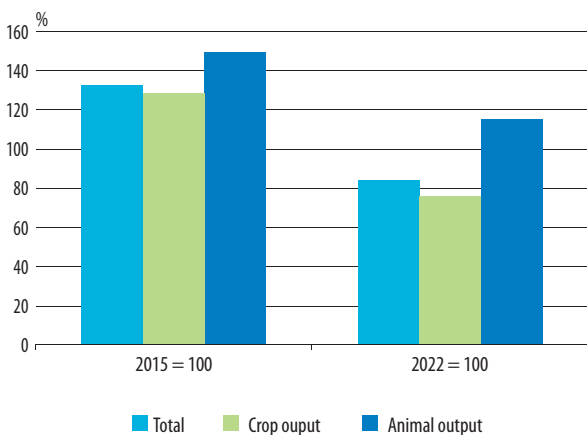
The survey is based on samples and is carried out quarterly.

The object of the survey is the producer price of a defined specific product. This is the price of the largest purchase or sale, in terms of quantity, during the respective month of the reference period. In the case of daily purchases or sales, the price in the middle of the month is recorded.

The producer's price is the output price of the agricultural farm, i.e., this price excludes expenditures for delivery, storage, transportation and the other expenditures arising from selling or purchasing agricultural products. This price does not include the product subsidies received (if such subsidies exist), VAT and other paid taxes.

On the basis of the collected information on agricultural producer prices, the producer price indices are calculated, using as a base (100) the year 2015, as well as the preceding year.

Figure 9. Producer price indices in agriculture in 2023





7. Producer price indices for agricultural products and live animals in 2023

	2023 as % to	
	2015	2022
Total	133.1	84.2
Crop output	128.1	76.1
Cereal crops	135.4	71.4
Industrial crops	112.7	72.1
Forage plants	119.2	104.5
Potatoes	168.7	120.1
Vegetables	143.7	109.7
Fruit	141.4	110.2
Other crop products	159.2	114.8
Animal output	149.2	115.2
Animals	143.7	121.4
Cattle	156.3	114.4
Pigs	152.0	130.2
Sheep and goats	141.4	111.4
Poultry	132.7	120.0
Animal products	153.2	108.9
Milk	151.7	103.7
Cow's milk	149.4	101.8
Other milk types	162.7	113.3
Eggs	166.2	126.4
Other animal products	137.5	99.3

Price indices of goods and services, currently consumed in agriculture

The survey of the prices of goods and services, currently consumed in agriculture, is carried out in accordance with the main requirements of the Eurostat agricultural price statistics methodology (The Handbook of Agricultural Price Statistics). Five surveys on prices of fertilizers, animal feeding stuffs, plant protection products, veterinary-medical products and seeds and planting stock are carried out.

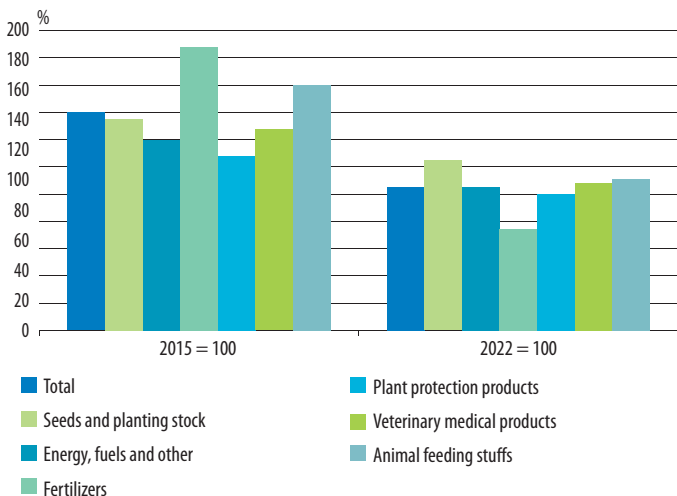
The surveys are based on samples and are carried out quarterly.

The objects of the surveys are the purchasing prices of the surveyed goods and services, currently consumed in agriculture.

The surveyed unit price is the price at the input of the agricultural farm, i.e., the price, which the purchaser has actually paid for the goods. This price includes taxes and levies and excludes subsidies and deductible VAT.

Based on the information from the five surveys, as well as on the information from other surveys conducted by the NSI, common price index of the goods and services, currently used in agriculture is calculated using as a base (100) the year 2015, as well as the preceding year.

Figure 10. Price indices of goods and services, currently used in agriculture in 2023





8. Price indices of goods and services currently consumed in agriculture in 2023

	2023 as % to	
	2015	2022
Total	141.0	94.6
Seeds and planting stock	137.8	112.7
Energy, fuels and other	125.6	94.0
Fertilizers	187.9	68.5
Straight fertilizers	188.1	68.2
Nitrogenous fertilizers	198.3	63.7
Phosphatic fertilizers	162.0	82.1
Potassic fertilizers	111.6	95.8
Compound fertilizers	181.1	80.7
Plant protection products and pesticides	114.1	97.6
Fungicides	116.3	97.7
Insecticides	94.8	76.7
Herbicides	117.5	102.7
Veterinary-medical products	133.9	105.4
Animal feeding stuffs	160.4	106.2
Straight feeding stuffs	153.6	96.9
Compound feeding stuffs	164.0	113.7
Maintenance of materials	138.7	105.9
Maintenance of buildings	148.0	109.3
Other goods and services	135.2	108.6



Price indices of goods and services contributing to agricultural investment

To calculate the price indices of goods and services contributing to agricultural investment using as a base (100) the year 2015, as well as the preceding year:

- Quarterly indices for import of agricultural machinery and transport equipment from the department 'Foreign trade statistics';
- Monthly indices in building construction from the department 'Business trends and tourism'.

9. Price indices of goods and services contributing to agricultural investment in agriculture in 2023

	2023 as % to	
	2015	2022
Total	131.6	122.4
Materials	146.3	125.3
Machinery and other equipment	148.4	125.2
Transport equipment	124.3	126.3
Buildings	98.5	101.3



Total index of goods and services in agriculture

The total index is calculated based on the prices indices of goods and services, currently consumed in agriculture, and price indices of goods and services contributing to agricultural investment.

10. Price indices of goods and services in agriculture in 2023

	2023 as % to	
	2015	2022
Total	140.3	97.5

XII. EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF GOODS





Foreign trade turnover

The indicators, which describe the foreign trade turnover of the Republic of Bulgaria are based on the following data: the Single Administrative Document for exports and imports with third countries; the monthly surveys of the Intra-EU exports and Intra-EU imports of goods by the obligated companies in trade with EU Member States; the statistical adjustments for non-response and intra-Union trade under the thresholds; additional statistical information from other administrative sources.

The main trading partner of Bulgaria, during the recent years is EU - more than one - half of the country's foreign trade is carried out with the Member States.

Figure 1. Exports and imports

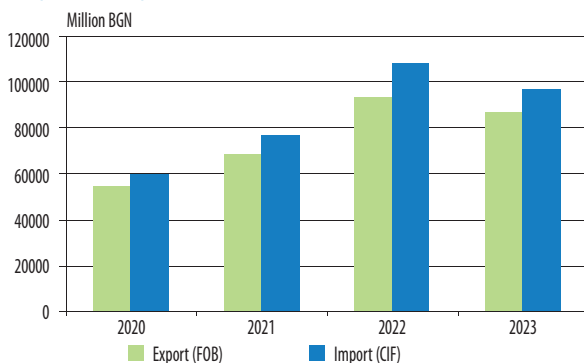
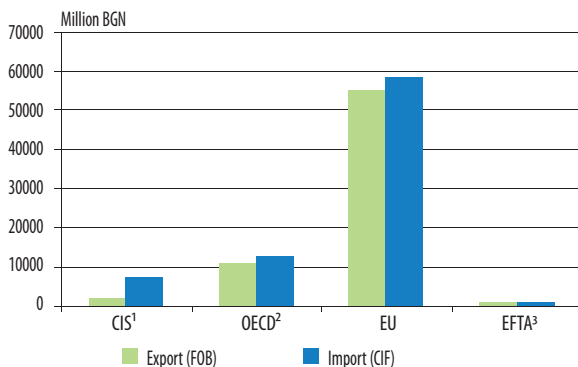


Figure 2. Exports and imports by economic zones in 2023



¹ CIS includes: Azerbaijan; Armenia; Belarus; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Moldova, Republic of; Russian Federation; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

² OECD includes: Australia; Virgin Islands (US); United States; Iceland; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica (from 2022); Mexico; New Zealand; Norway; Korea, Republic of; Türkiye; United Kingdom; Switzerland; Japan and Israel.

³ EFTA includes: Norway; Switzerland; Iceland and Liechtenstein.



1. Foreign trade turnover

(Million BGN)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Turnover	114906.4	145173.8	200830.6	183380.2
Exports (FOB)	54779.3	68431.2	92917.8	86496.9
Imports (CIF)	60127.1	76742.6	107912.8	96883.3

2. Number of countries, trade partners of Bulgaria

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Turnover	211	214	214	209
Exports (FOB)	210	208	210	204
Imports (CIF)	172	176	172	173

3. Exports and imports by economic zones

(Million BGN)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Exports	54779.3	68431.2	92917.8	86496.9
of which:				
CIS ¹	1268.2	1322.2	1715.0	1883.1
OECD ²	7343.5	9126.2	11351.1	10916.4
EU	35845.3	45270.6	60583.5	55142.5
EFTA ³	447.8	566.8	733.5	793.8
Imports	60127.1	76742.6	107912.8	96883.3
of which:				
CIS ¹	3888.0	6267.7	12933.0	7269.7
OECD ²	7852.2	9948.8	13983.5	12607.4
EU	36582.0	46332.9	59612.4	58124.8
EFTA ³	528.9	623.1	700.0	1039.3

¹ CIS includes: Azerbaijan; Armenia; Belarus; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Moldova, Republic of; Russian Federation; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

² OECD includes: Australia; Virgin Islands (US); United States; Iceland; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica (from 2022); Mexico; New Zealand; Norway; Korea, Republic of; Türkiye; United Kingdom; Switzerland; Japan and Israel.

³ EFTA includes: Norway; Switzerland; Iceland and Liechtenstein.



Exports by main trade partner countries

The geographical distribution of the data on exports is presented according to the countries of destination of the goods. The graph shows exports to the top 10 Bulgarian trade partner countries.

The distribution of exports according to the Standard International Trade classification shows the biggest share of Machinery and transport equipment, followed by Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material.

Figure 3. Exports to the top 10 Bulgarian trade partner countries in 2023

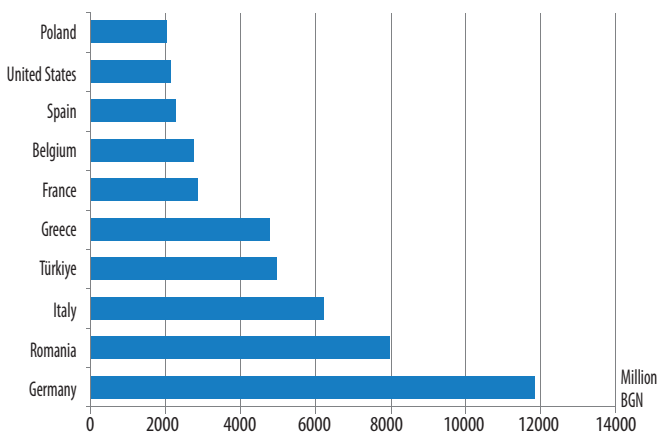
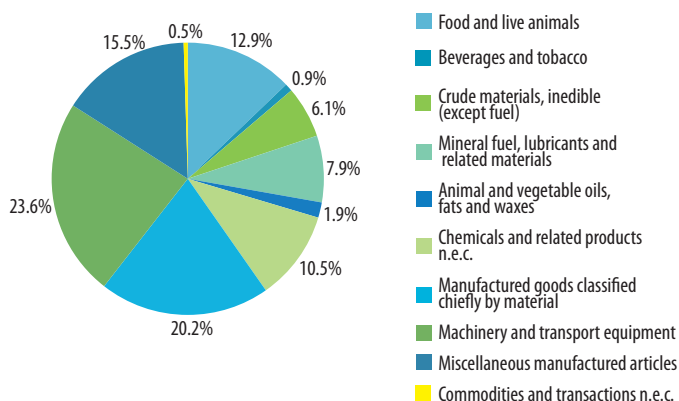


Figure 4. Structure of exports by sections of SITC (rev. 4) in 2023





4. Exports by countries main trade partners

(Million BGN)

Country	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	54779.3	68431.2	92917.8	86496.9
of which:				
Austria	1049.9	1345.5	1849.2	1790.7
Algeria	153.0	161.9	1020.4	1071.2
Belgium	1903.8	2211.3	2397.4	2724.5
China	1806.3	2198.7	1539.0	1996.0
Croatia	323.1	636.5	739.9	625.7
Cyprus	227.7	274.5	390.3	276.4
Czechia	1266.2	1489.0	1526.5	1636.1
Denmark	380.1	645.0	439.1	397.1
Egypt	328.8	465.9	1266.8	1480.4
France	2100.4	2478.3	3080.3	2838.5
Georgia	258.9	380.0	489.4	563.7
Germany	8773.8	10135.1	13083.4	11839.7
Gibraltar	199.0	272.4	1026.3	336.3
Greece	3637.7	4744.0	6053.4	4786.6
Hungary	951.9	1249.7	1636.8	1103.6
Izrael	204.7	379.4	587.6	407.2
Italy	3760.3	5128.0	6974.1	6213.8
Lebanon	205.5	105.1	337.7	51.2
Libya	224.8	229.3	372.7	312.4
Netherlands	1440.1	1703.2	2450.4	1740.1
Poland	1359.6	1716.8	2098.0	2033.4
Portugal	202.6	251.0	239.3	242.1
Republic of North Macedonia	851.9	1124.6	1522.0	1679.5
Romania	4976.0	6864.9	9444.9	7973.2
Russian Federation	826.6	853.8	956.3	977.3
Serbia	969.2	1453.8	2286.6	1891.9
Singapore	39.9	56.3	49.5	266.2
Slovakia	526.7	565.9	879.1	1014.5
Slovenia	359.9	419.9	517.2	470.8
Spain	1308.8	1860.7	2433.6	2266.8
Sweden	483.5	533.0	697.6	789.6
Switzerland	354.2	458.1	608.5	658.3
Türkiye	3531.6	4206.9	5553.1	4932.7
Ukraine	445.6	793.7	2252.6	1667.3
United Arab Emirates	139.2	157.9	274.5	339.8
United Kingdom ¹	1303.7	1257.0	1452.0	1368.8
United States	1105.1	1699.0	2068.1	2118.3

¹ The United Kingdom includes: Northern Ireland; Great Britain; Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

5. Exports by sections of SITC, rev. 4

(Million BGN)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	54779.3	68431.2	92917.8	86496.9
Food and live animals	6447.6	8049.0	10064.7	11183.8
Beverages and tobacco	730.3	634.8	636.2	749.3
Crude materials, inedible (except fuel)	3907.1	5218.5	5281.9	5230.5
Mineral fuel, lubricants and related materials	2545.1	4114.2	10658.8	6850.0
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	834.6	1363.1	3369.1	1665.8
Chemicals and related products n.e.c.	6400.9	7989.1	10995.4	9087.1
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	12502.3	15921.9	20014.9	17434.3
Machinery and transport equipment	12975.7	15578.5	19095.4	20453.2
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	8212.5	9305.3	12673.4	13381.4
Commodities and transactions n.e.c.	223.2	256.8	128.0	461.5



Imports by main trade partner countries

The geographical distribution of the data on imports is presented according to the countries of consignment of the goods. The graph shows imports from the top 10 partner countries.

The distribution of imports according to the Standard International Trade classification shows the biggest share of machinery and transport equipment, followed by mineral fuel, lubricants and related materials.

Figure 5. Imports from the top 10 Bulgarian trade partner countries in 2023

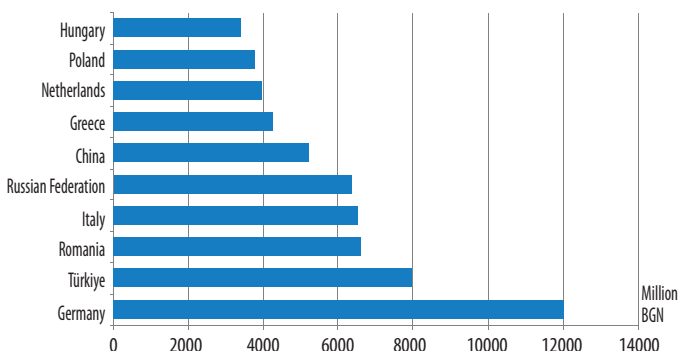
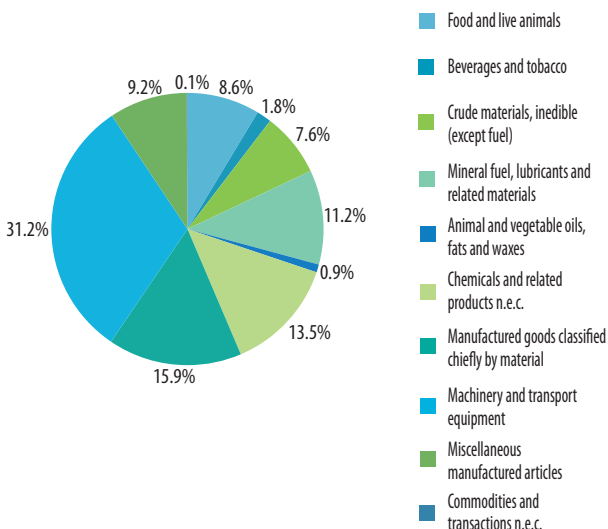


Figure 6. Structure of imports by sections of SITC (rev.4) in 2023





6. Imports by countries main trade partners

(Million BGN)

Country	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	60127.1	76742.6	107912.8	96883.3
of which:				
Austria	1614.2	1870.2	2370.4	2586.3
Belgium	1143.5	1481.3	2027.7	2165.6
China	3057.2	4148.2	6251.4	5209.0
Croatia	353.0	370.8	240.4	258.4
Czechia	1596.1	1890.4	2402.3	2733.1
Denmark	290.5	348.7	463.0	623.7
Egypt	659.2	513.8	482.9	688.6
France	1736.1	2016.5	2351.1	2596.7
Germany	7262.2	9391.5	11663.9	12031.9
Georgia	923.2	724.1	1018.5	585.5
Greece	2965.5	4209.3	6347.9	4252.7
Hungary	2346.5	2805.8	3392.1	3381.5
India	283.3	392.5	477.7	462.6
Italy	4261.8	5059.2	6443.4	6518.7
Ireland	362.7	497.6	427.3	386.4
Japan	297.9	400.8	458.0	383.8
Jordan	6.4	7.1	25.3	14.5
Korea, Rep .of	262.3	277.2	388.8	362.1
Netherlands	2382.6	3252.6	4453.3	3966.1
Poland	2224.1	2738.5	3572.2	3781.9
Republic of North Macedonia	592.6	728.0	876.8	1034.3
Romania	4397.3	5784.5	7384.8	6592.2
Russian Federation	3674.2	5827.8	11702.3	6345.0
Serbia	1202.6	1498.4	1861.0	2114.0
Slovakia	838.2	958.6	1104.9	1164.8
Slovenia	458.9	570.6	798.5	883.2
Spain	1145.9	1448.6	2192.7	1842.2
Sweden	368.8	485.1	690.6	800.2
Switzerland	478.0	561.0	623.0	706.2
Taiwan	214.6	332.6	486.1	308.1
Türkiye	4264.5	6011.8	9095.8	7957.6
Ukraine	1141.2	1634.5	3411.8	1906.0
United Kingdom ¹	763.4	611.7	862.6	784.9
United States	773.3	558.4	1586.3	1025.9

¹ The United Kingdom includes: Northern Ireland; Great Britain; Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

7. Imports by sections of SITC, rev. 4

(Million BGN)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	60127.1	76742.6	107912.8	96883.3
Food and live animals	5157.2	5802.1	7526.5	8362.4
Beverages and tobacco	1156.4	1256.3	1468.1	1689.5
Crude materials, inedible (except fuel)	6270.0	6811.9	9612.0	7387.8
Mineral fuel, lubricants and related materials	5116.4	8792.4	18077.0	10803.6
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	309.9	507.9	1636.0	902.2
Chemicals and related products n.e.c.	9147.3	11845.5	15269.0	13028.8
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by the material	10172.3	13223.4	17258.1	15417.7
Machinery and transport equipment	17070.3	21379.2	28570.5	30264.5
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	5259.9	6546.5	8394.2	8916.6
Commodities and transactions n.e.c.	467.4	577.4	101.4	110.1



Exports and imports by commodities

The NSI applies the Special System of Trade for the reporting of foreign trade flows.

The reporting of commodity flows by kind of commodity is done according to Combined Nomenclature.

8. Exports of selected commodities

Commodities	2020	2021	2022	2023
Meat of swine - fresh, chilled or frozen - thousand tons	3.5	6.4	7.9	7.5
Poultry meat - fresh, chilled or frozen - thousand tons	29.7	32.1	34.1	30.8
Cheese and yellow cheese - thousand tons	14.2	14.0	12.7	12.7
Tomatoes, fresh or chilled - thousand tons	9.4	15.8	14.0	17.2
Cucumbers and gherkins, fresh or chilled - thousand tons	13.7	16.4	10.6	8.0
Maize - thousand tons	2593.0	1759.3	963.5	1364.9
Preserved tomatoes - thousand tons	3.1	3.9	4.3	3.1
Other preserved vegetables - thousand tons	25.9	26.6	23.0	19.0
Tobacco, unmanufactured - thousand tons	22.9	22.9	23.7	21.7
Cigarettes - thousand tons	4.6	4.5	5.9	7.8
Dentifrices - thousand tons	8.6	8.4	9.6	9.5
New pneumatic tyres of rubber - thousand tons	2.3	3.7	3.6	3.2
Men's or boys' suits, jackets, trousers - million BGN	328.4	253.4	327.7	394.4
Men's or boys' shirts - million BGN	46.2	44.3	48.4	56.0
Footwear upper of leather - thousand pairs	2393.6	2796.7	3126.9	2641.4
Pumps for liquids - million BGN	228.7	242.2	284.5	294.2
Lathes - thousand tons	3.2	3.5	3.8	3.4
Electric accumulators - million BGN	329.6	391.9	416.4	646.1
Furniture - million BGN	377.0	490.5	518.3	464.7



9. Imports of selected commodities

Commodities	2020	2021	2022	2023
Bananas - thousand tons	71.0	73.0	63.1	70.2
Oranges - thousand tons	36.3	35.9	33.6	38.0
Lemons - thousand tons	32.7	39.0	39.0	38.4
Grapefruit - thousand tons	19.2	20.4	19.7	12.8
Olives - thousand tons	15.8	15.9	15.1	13.6
Coffee beans - thousand tons	39.8	38.1	35.8	34.0
Pepper (black and white) - tons	833.7	814.8	796.1	814.2
Rice - thousand tons	94.5	57.7	133.3	86.4
Margarine - thousand tons	6.1	6.2	5.5	5.5
Chocolate - thousand tons	32.2	32.5	36.2	36.8
Fruit and vegetable juices - thousand tons	22.7	25.8	25.8	23.3
Sugar - thousand tons	232.3	207.9	304.6	233.9
Soya groats - thousand tons	116.2	107.6	92.9	91.6
Salt - thousand tons	136.7	256.4	252.5	166.6
Coal (excl. anthracite) - thousand tons	364.6	388.8	430.6	357.8
Anthracite - thousand tons	242.1	472.0	968.5	165.3
Coke and semi-coke of coal - thousand tons	68.2	56.0	81.0	172.8
Cellulose - thousand tons	13.5	7.9	7.1	7.3
Newsprint - thousand tons	19.3	18.2	19.9	12.1
Cigarette paper - thousand tons	7.8	7.4	8.0	7.3
Cotton (incl. linter) - thousand tons	2.9	2.7	1.6	2.3
Footwear upper of leather - thousand pairs	2788.4	3363.9	3915.1	4129.5
Tubes of cast iron and steel - thousand tons	241.6	75.1	80.4	91.3
Refrigerators - thousand items	55.8	56.8	65.8	74.4
Washing machines - thousand items	244.3	273.6	324.5	275.7
Vacuum-cleaners - thousand items	550.1	669.9	640.0	618.9
TV sets - thousand items	817.2	759.7	752.7	732.3
Household sewing machines - thousand items	9.1	11.0	20.6	32.9
Combines (corn) - number	599	543	963	767
Passenger cars - thousand items	68.6	79.3	78.4	91.4
Trucks - thousand items	23.9	11.1	15.5	12.0
Busses - number	1211	1954	2045	3719
Bicycles - thousand items	71.4	117.5	84.0	62.1
Motorcycles - thousand items	32.7	51.4	56.6	46.5
Tractors - thousand items	7.5	8.7	8.4	8.4
Cultivators - number	361	7921	3245	5105
Cameras - million BGN	0.8	1.0	1.5	1.4
Clocks and watches - thousand items	1009.3	1123.3	1110.7	1185.7

XIII. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS





Balance of payments

The Balance of payments (standard presentation) is in accordance with the Sixth edition of the 'Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual' (IMF, 2008) and the 'Guidelines of the European Central Bank'. The components of the standard presentation of the balance of payments are classified in the following main categories:

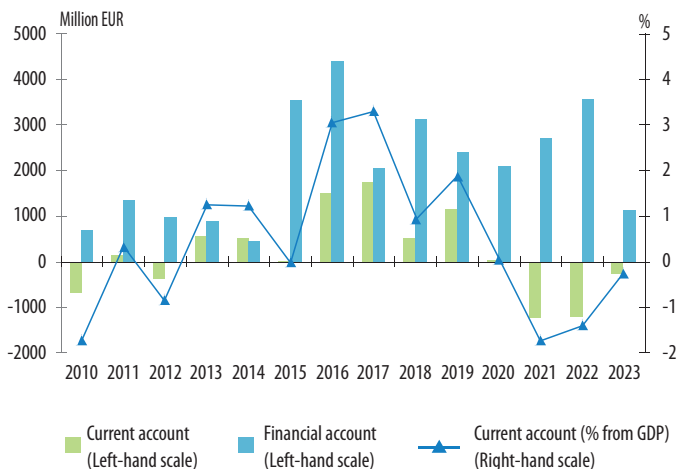
Current Account - comprises the acquisition and provision of goods and services, primary and secondary income between residents and non-residents.

Capital Account - shows (1) capital transfers receivable and payable between residents and non-residents; and (2) the acquisition and disposal of non-produced nonfinancial assets between residents and non-residents.

Financial Account - records all transactions that involve financial assets and liabilities and that take place between residents and non-residents.

Net errors and omissions is an offsetting item.

Figure 1. Current and financial account



1. Balance of payments of Bulgaria¹

(Million EUR)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Current and Capital Account	913.8	-733.9	-405.7	1221.0
Current Account	24.4	-1224.8	-1199.5	-250.5
Goods and Services - Net	1208.1	1304.0	176.0	3062.0
Goods - Net ²	-1941.1	-2886.7	-5074.3	-3627.7
Services - Net	3149.2	4190.7	5250.3	6689.6
Primary income - Net	-2172.4	-3350.9	-2787.0	-4696.3
Secondary income - Net	988.7	822.1	1411.5	1383.8
Capital Account	889.4	490.9	793.8	1471.6
Gross acquisitions/disposals of non-produced non-financial assets - Net	151.5	-310.8	-1059.3	702.5
Capital transfers - Net	737.9	801.7	1853.1	769.1
Financial account - Net³	2109.2	2712.6	3560.6	1127.3
Direct investment - Net ⁴	-2758.6	-1248.5	-2098.1	-3065.8
Portfolio investment - Net ⁵	763.7	2309.0	1060.9	1244.9
Financial derivatives - Net	-45.8	78.6	3.9	11.9
Other investment - Net	-1644.0	-2032.8	602.3	-343.5
BNB Reserve assets ⁶	5793.9	3606.3	3991.7	3279.7
Balancing Items:				
Current and Capital Account Balance	913.8	-733.9	-405.7	1221.0
Financial Account Balance	2109.2	2712.6	3560.6	1127.3
Net errors and Omissions ⁷	1195.4	3446.5	3966.3	-93.8

¹ Standard presentation in accordance with IMF 6-th edition of the 'Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual'. Preliminary data as of March 21, 2024.

² Preliminary NSI and BNB data for 2022 and 2023. The data are based on the balance of payments compilation methodology.

³ A minus sign denotes a capital outflow (decrease in assets or liabilities) and a positive sign - a capital inflow (increase in assets or liabilities).

⁴ Preliminary data compiled in accordance with the asset/liability principle. Data are provided by direct investment companies reporting to BNB, banks, the Central Depository, notaries, the NSI, the Public Enterprises and Control Agency. The 2022 and 2023 data are subject to revisions with the annual NSI data and reports from foreign direct investment enterprises.

⁵ Based on data provided by banks, nonbank financial institutions, insurance companies and pension funds, general government institutions, and nonfinancial corporations acquiring securities without intermediation of a resident investment intermediary.

⁶ Excluding valuation changes due to the exchange rate or price changes, changes associated with the creation of reserve assets (monetization/demonetization of gold and the allocation or cancellation of SDRs) and reclassifications. A positive sign (+) denotes an increase in the reserves, a minus sign (-) - a decrease.

⁷ Net errors and omissions represent the difference between the Financial account balance and Current and Capital account balance.

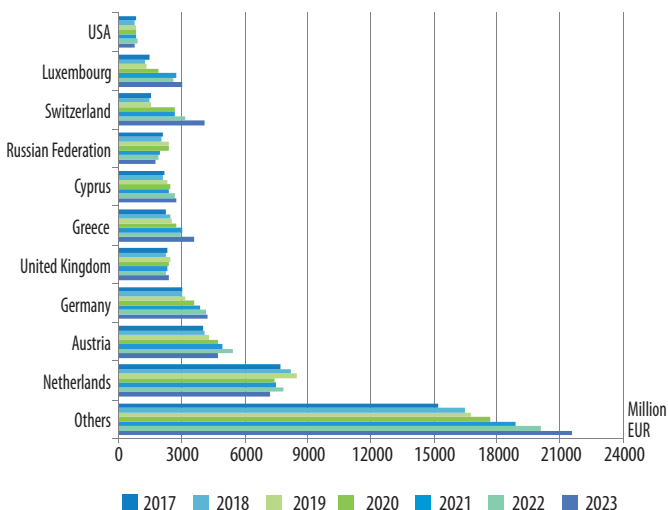


Foreign direct investments

Foreign direct investment in the country is an international investment in which a direct investor, resident of a foreign economy, obtains a lasting interest in an enterprise resident of the Bulgarian economy (direct investment enterprise). The lasting interest of the direct investor in a long-term relationship with the direct investment enterprise implies a significant degree of influence by the direct investor on the management of the direct investment enterprise. For the purposes of international compatibility of the data of the separate countries, the Balance of Payments Manual has adopted the principle that the acquisition of 10 or more percents of the voting power in the management of an enterprise is considered an establishment of a direct investment relationship.

The foreign direct investment comprises the initial transaction establishing the relationship between the direct investor and the direct investment enterprise, as well as all subsequent transactions between them. The transactions can be related to increase/decrease in the liabilities of the direct investment enterprise to its direct investor, as well as to increase/decrease in the claims of the direct investment enterprise on the direct investor.

Figure 2. Stock of FDI in Bulgaria, by country



2. FDI flows in Bulgaria, by economic activity groupings¹

(Million EUR)

Economic activity groupings	2020	2021	2022	2023
All FDI activities	2974.2	1517.0	2631.1	3619.1
Accommodation and food service activities	-76.6	-73.9	1.7	15.4
Administrative and support service activities	5.9	18.4	37.8	46.1
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	-2.6	11.6	5.2	-2.9
Arts, entertainment and recreation	-7.6	21.6	50.6	-0.1
Construction	216.0	-28.6	-31.0	30.7
Education	-2.5	-0.2	-2.9	-1.8
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	-4.6	92.1	119.2	-40.4
Financial and insurance activities	705.2	952.6	1007.2	1515.0
Human health and social work activities	0.4	-1.6	0.2	0.8
Information and communication	167.2	301.7	99.9	228.0
Manufacturing	203.7	-122.1	984.7	1323.4
Mining and quarrying	47.5	15.7	22.1	70.3
Other service activities	3.0	3.3	1.4	0.2
Professional, scientific and technical activities	1439.8	178.0	-276.9	83.7
Real estate activities	67.7	61.2	186.6	142.4
Transportation and storage	229.8	-12.3	43.7	25.6
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	8.0	-0.5	0.9	9.6
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	-9.4	122.7	403.6	186.3
Not allocated	-16.8	-22.8	-23.0	-13.2

¹ Source: Bulgarian National Bank.
Preliminary data as of March 21, 2024.

XIV. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS



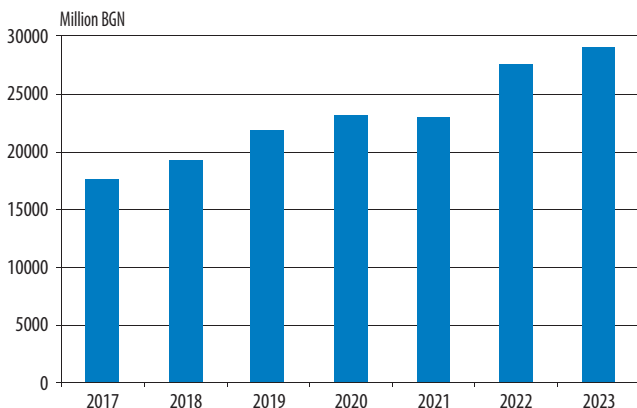


Expenditure on acquisition of tangible fixed assets

The expenditure on acquisition of tangible fixed assets include the actual expenditure on acquisition of tangible fixed assets of land, buildings and construction equipment, machines, equipment and means of transport, other expenditure made through construction and purchase, including used tangible fixed assets.

The data about expenditure on acquisition of tangible fixed assets are shown at current prices.

Figure 1. Expenditure on acquisition of tangible fixed assets



1. Expenditure on acquisition of tangible fixed assets by kind

	(Thousand BGN)			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	23157131	23035610	27522260	28943895
Land	1512070	2233372	2294278	1215644
Buildings and construction equipment	10399613	8146644	9557540	11840172
Machines, equipment and means of transport	8712867	9709179	11501461	13648218
Other expenditure	2532581	2946415	4168981	2239861



2. Expenditure on acquisition of tangible fixed assets by economic activity groupings

(Thousand BGN)

Economic activity groupings	2021	2022	2023
Total	23035610	27522260	28943895
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1718571	2268073	1456068
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	5627009	7140444	7662606
Construction	2136972	2050203	1540923
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	5918666	6936677	6833401
Information and communication	887551	1222031	1250046
Financial and insurance activities	340320	450437	523302
Real estate activities	2612798	3087490	2400341
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	1375027	1659680	1967777
Public administration, defense, education, human health and social work activities	2073082	2221596	4943660
Other services	345614	485629	365771

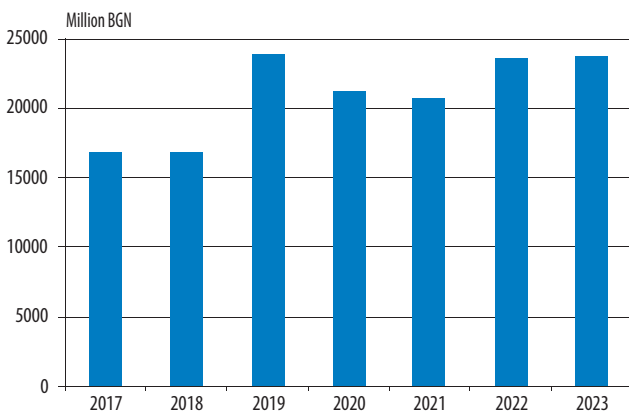


Acquired tangible fixed assets

The acquired tangible fixed assets include the value of all acquired tangible fixed assets, irrespective of the manner of their acquisition (construction or purchase). The tangible fixed assets acquired by construction are reported after their putting into operation according to Ordinance No. 2/31.07.2003 of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works.

The data about acquired tangible fixed assets are shown at current prices for the respective year.

Figure 2. Acquired tangible fixed assets



3. Acquired tangible fixed assets by kind

	(Thousand BGN)			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	21045792	20685094	23572282	23690093
Land	1512070	2233372	2294278	1215644
Buildings and construction equipment	9016697	6510614	7540098	7428342
Machines, equipment and means of transport	8713354	9930480	11123503	13260919
Other expenditure	1803671	2010628	2614403	1785188



4. Acquired tangible fixed assets by economic activity groupings

(Thousand BGN)

Economic activity groupings	2021	2022	2023
Total	20685094	23572282	23690093
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1653524	2105902	1463888
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	5449741	6046564	6971480
Construction	1711823	1443200	1507601
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	5393298	6588741	5706741
Information and communication	861833	1127196	1232364
Financial and insurance activities	255693	419977	428983
Real estate activities	2190550	2424671	1487859
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	1329811	1432261	1853802
Public administration, defense, education, human health and social work activities	1510760	1550435	2528093
Other services	328061	433335	509282

**XV. DOMESTIC TRADE;
ACCOMMODATION AND
FOOD SERVICE ACTIVITIES**





Retail sales premises

The number of 'Shops' comprises shops and pavilions of the stationary trade network with trade rooms for serving customers. The number of 'Petrol stations' and 'Gas stations' is not included in the number of shops. The retail sales shops are classified according to the predominant kind of goods offered.

In 2022, an increase in the total number of shops was registered. In comparison with 2015, the number of shops decreased as for 'Foods, beverages and tobacco' as well as for 'Durable and other consumer goods' by 4.6% and 3.2%, respectively.



1. Retail sales premises as of 31.12.

Types of premises	Number			Change - % (Preceding year = 100)	
	2020	2021	2022	2021	2022
Shops and pavilions - total	113753	111347	111632	-2.1	0.3
For foods, beverages and tobacco	42016	41224	41163	-1.9	-0.1
Specialized shops	15249	15267	15747	0.1	3.1
Unspecialized shops with different kinds of goods	26767	25957	25416	-3.0	-2.1
For durable and other consumer goods	71737	70123	70469	-2.2	0.5
Specialized shops	55261	54797	54892	-0.8	0.2
Unspecialized shops with different kinds of goods (mainly non-foods)	16476	15326	15577	-7	1.6
Petrol stations	2492	2481	2495	-0.4	0.6
Gas stations	361	301	310	-16.6	3.0



Turnover in domestic trade, accommodation and food service activities

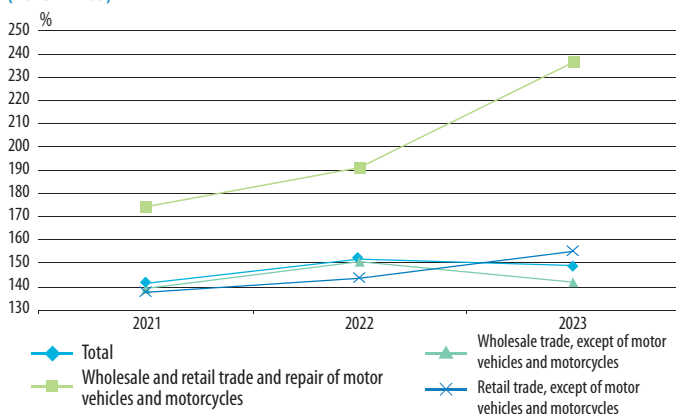
The indicator refers only to the economic subjects classified in accordance with the National Classification of Economic Activities (NACE.BG - 2008) in section G - 'Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' and section I 'Accommodation and food service activities'. The turnover includes all revenues invoiced during the reported period for delivery of products, goods or services, including the accrued excises.

The turnover indices are calculated for all groups of trade activities as defined in Regulation (EC) No. 1893/2006 and reflect the turnover changes between two consecutive years' constant prices. They are calculated on the base of 2015 average annual prices and are chain-linked and comparable in coverage. The price impact is eliminated by deflation of the turnover through use of the consumer prices' indices and the producer prices' indices, regrouped according to the content of the relevant activity groups.

According to the preliminary data in 2023, the turnover in section 'Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' decline by 1.5% compared to the previous year. In the 'Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles', the general increase was 7.9%. In the 'Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles', the drop of 5.9% determined the magnitude of the overall index, as the activity formed about 70% of the turnover volume in the trade sector. A growth was observed in 'Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' - by 23.9%.

The turnover at constant prices in section 'Accommodation and food service activities' in 2023 ran up by 3.1% compared to 2022. An increase was observed in the 'Food and beverage service activities' and in the 'Accommodation' - by 6.3% and 0.4%, respectively.

Figure 1. Turnover indices for the major trade activities (2015 = 100)





2. Turnover in section 'Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' and section 'Accommodation and food service activities'

(Million BGN)

Economic activities	2020	2021	2022	2023
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	132985	161307	206889	204906
Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	9138	10882	12497	15431
Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	88729	110173	145048	136408
of which:				
Wholesale of agricultural raw materials and live animals	11993	17536	20700	18197
Wholesale of food, beverages and tobacco	20447	20676	25052	28863
Wholesale of household goods	15844	17993	20301	19896
Wholesale of information and communication equipment	3133	3413	4052	3838
Wholesale of other machinery, equipment and supplies	5249	6088	7843	7357
Other specialised wholesale	23212	35169	52718	39939
Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	35118	40252	49344	53067
of which:				
Retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco	13949	15051	17074	20122
Other retail sale in non-specialised stores	1626	1933	2482	2739
Retail sale of automotive fuel in specialised stores	4371	4902	7696	6373
Dispensing chemist; retail sale of medical and orthopaedic goods, cosmetic and toilet articles in specialised stores	3677	4022	4654	5250
Retail sale of textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods in specialised stores	1295	1707	2123	2238
Retail sale of audio and video equipment; hardware, paints and glass; electrical household appliances, etc. in specialised stores	4343	5148	6056	6370
Retail sale of computers, peripheral units and software; telecommunications equipment, etc. in specialised stores	4009	4969	6177	6585
Accommodation and food service activities	3683	5258	7533	8798
Accommodation	1120	1775	2775	3018
Food and beverage service activities	2563	3483	4778	5780

XVI. INDUSTRY



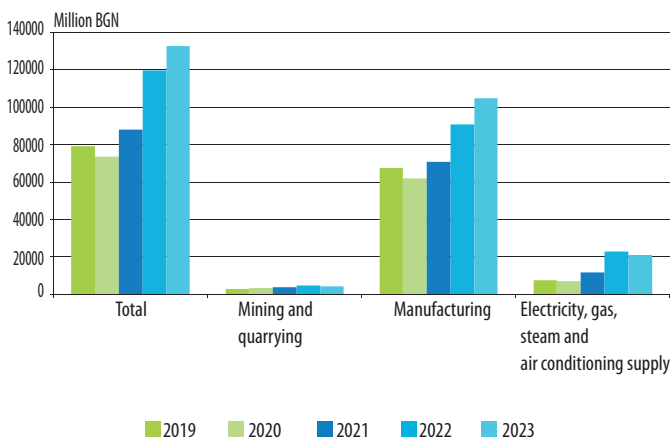
Production value of industrial enterprises

The 'Industry' comprises the activity of industrial enterprises, classified in the mining and quarrying industry, manufacturing, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities.

The indicator 'Production value of industrial enterprises' refers to the entire of the industrial enterprises, i.e., it includes receipts from their non-industrial activities. The production value comprises the following elements: receipts from sales of industrial production and services expenditure on acquisition of tangible fixed assets on own account of the enterprises, other receipts, changes in stocks of finished goods and changes in stocks of work-in-progress.

All data in value terms are published at current prices.

Figure 1. Production value of industrial enterprises





1. Production value of industrial enterprises

(Thousand BGN)

	2021	2022	2023
Total	88100015	120045561	132790010
Mining and quarrying	3713231	4323326	4172286
Manufacturing	70861171	90775334	104920079
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	11559868	22617058	20781597
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation	1965745	2329843	2916048

2. Production value of industrial enterprises by economic activities

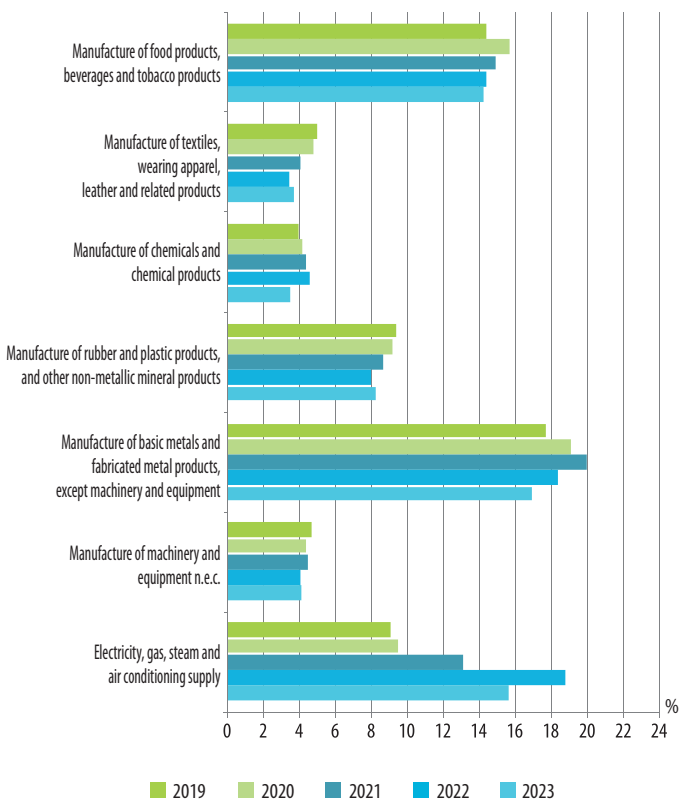
(Thousand BGN)

Economic activities	2021	2022	2023
Total	88100015	120045561	132790010
Mining and quarrying	3713231	4323326	4172286
Manufacturing	70861171	90775334	104920079
Manufacture of food products, beverages and tobacco products	13077010	17299636	18897618
Manufacture of textiles, wearing apparel, leather and related products	3637279	4249145	4978050
Manufacture of wood and paper products, and printing	3478943	4540619	5092458
Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products	1702834	3004517	..
Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	3847670	5474905	4713355
Manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical and botanical products	1256711	1382513	..
Manufacture of rubber and plastic products, and other non-metallic mineral products	7620992	9556719	11011462
Manufacture of basic metals and fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	17605945	22137008	22492890
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	1754893	2333003	2501221
Manufacture of electrical equipment	3981057	4798273	5213566
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	3924389	4967788	5480381
Manufacture of transport equipment	5081216	6135264	6794861
Manufacture of furniture; other manufacturing; repair and installation of machinery and equipment	3892232	4895944	6583574
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	11559868	22617058	20781597
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation	1965745	2329843	2916048

Structure of the production value of industrial enterprises

The structures (relative shares) are calculated at current prices. A change in the contribution of the main industrial activities in the volume of production is observed. The shares of the manufacture of furniture; other manufacturing; repair and installation of machinery and equipment increased, while a decrease was observed in the shares of electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, manufacture of basic metals and fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment, manufacture of chemicals and chemical products.

Figure 2. Share of the production value in some main economic activities

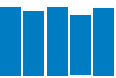




3. Structure of the production value of industrial enterprises by economic activities

(Per cent)

Economic activities	2021	2022	2023
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mining and quarrying	4.2	3.6	3.1
Manufacturing	80.5	75.6	79.0
Manufacture of food products, beverages and tobacco products	14.9	14.4	14.2
Manufacture of textiles, wearing apparel, leather and related products	4.1	3.5	3.7
Manufacture of wood and paper products, and printing	3.9	3.8	3.8
Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products	1.9	2.5	..
Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	4.4	4.6	3.5
Manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical and botanical products	1.4	1.2	..
Manufacture of rubber and plastic products, and other non-metallic mineral products	8.7	8.0	8.3
Manufacture of basic metals and fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	20.0	18.4	16.9
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	2.0	1.9	1.9
Manufacture of electrical equipment	4.5	4.0	3.9
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	4.5	4.1	4.1
Manufacture of transport equipment	5.8	5.1	5.1
Manufacture of furniture; other manufacturing; repair and installation of machinery and equipment	4.4	4.1	5.0
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	13.1	18.8	15.6
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation	2.2	2.0	2.2



Indices of industrial production, calendar-adjusted

The Industrial Production Index is calculated on the basis of the calendar-adjusted monthly indicator ‘Industrial Production Index’. It is based on sample survey.

4. Production value indices of industrial enterprises

	(Preceding year = 100)		
	2021	2022	2023
Total	111.1	124.3	115.0
Mining and quarrying	114.6	122.7	107.3
Manufacturing	117.1	131.3	127.0
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	87.1	100.0	72.6
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation	102.7	101.4	97.1



5. Industrial Production Index, calendar-adjusted

(Preceding year = 100)

Economic activities	2021	2022	2023
Total	111.1	124.3	115.0
Mining and quarrying	114.6	122.7	107.3
Manufacturing	117.1	131.3	127.0
Manufacture of food products, beverages and tobacco products	103.9	110.9	107.1
Manufacture of textiles, wearing apparel, leather and related products	79.2	85.4	75.4
Manufacture of wood and paper products, and printing	101.8	104.2	93.3
Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products	..	..	..
Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	121.8	128.9	119.0
Manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical and botanical products	119.7	126.1	125.4
Manufacture of rubber and plastic products, and other non-metallic mineral products	131.3	133.8	119.2
Manufacture of basic metals and fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	116.9	138.3	150.8
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	221.4	277.6	248.2
Manufacture of electrical equipment	149.5	165.0	165.7
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	116.0	129.6	116.8
Manufacture of transport equipment	152.5	184.9	190.9
Manufacture of furniture; other manufacturing; repair and installation of machinery and equipment	117.7	144.2	141.2
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	87.1	100.0	72.6
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation	102.7	101.4	97.1

Industrial products in kind

The annual statistical survey on industrial products in kind is conducted on the basis of the National Nomenclature of Industrial Production (PRODCOM.BG), which is identical to the European Nomenclature of Industrial Products (PRODCOM List) and ensures comparability with EU industrial products. Information is collected according to the methodology of the statistical survey for all PRODCOM.BG headings for which it is known that production exists, on the basis of a representative sample of industrial enterprises and non-industrial ones whose secondary activity is industrial.

The data on the output of industrial products in kind (Table 6) comprises total production in volume terms for the respective reference year, including industrial products manufactured on the sub-contracting basis, and intermediate consumption of the enterprises (any production by the enterprise which is incorporated into the manufacture of other products).

Due to the specific character of the survey, published data are subject to continuous review and updating to improve the quality of the disseminated data.

Figure 3. **Portland cement**

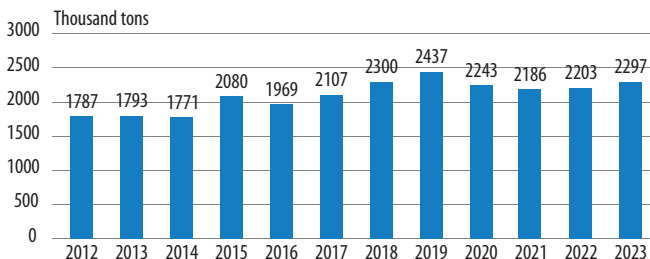
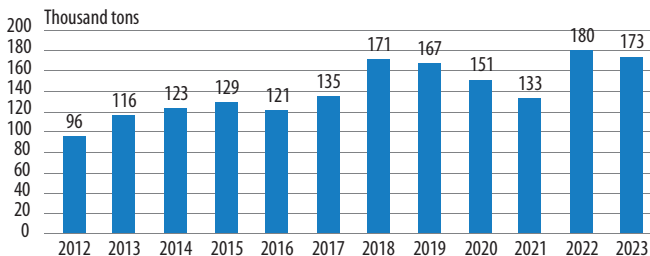


Figure 4. **Refined sunflower oil**





6. Output of basic industrial products

Industrial products	2020	2021	2022	2023
Copper ores and concentrates - thousand tons	32407	30774	35521	34435
Lead, zinc and tin ores and concentrates - thousand tons	825	881	879	873
Limestone flux, limestone and other calcareous stone used for the manufacture of lime or cement (excluding crushed limestone aggregate and calcareous dimension stone) - thousand tons	5422	6264	7025	5287
Natural sands - thousand tons	7198	7518	7123	6294
Refined unwrought lead (excluding lead powders or flakes) - thousand tons	..	85	89	77
Pulley tackle and hoists powered by an electric motor (excluding of the kind used for raising vehicles) - number	12094	13156	12619	12547
Self-propelled works trucks fitted with lifting or handling equipment, powered by an electric motor, with a lifting height ≥ 1 m - number	42	50	41	..
Self-propelled works trucks fitted with lifting or handling equipment, non-powered by an electric motor - number	58	69	22	..
Non-numerically controlled horizontal lathes, for removing metal - number	..	..	..	..
Bicycles and other cycles (including delivery tricycles), non-motorised - thousand items	438	381	351	191
Lead-acid accumulators, excluding for starting piston engines - elements	458168	486927	432716	373063
Lifts and skip hoists - number	1094	1013	962	847
Electrical instantaneous or storage water heaters and immersion heaters - thousand items	1198	1239	1162	1111
Electricity supply or production meters (incl. calibrated) - thousand items	..	..	..	..
Paints and varnishes based on synthetic or modified natural polymers dispersed or dissolved in an aqueous medium - thousand tons	29	23	20	17
Detergents and washing preparations - tons	103151	83375	93397	96526
Tooth paste - thousand items	76231	76579	93262	84858
Shampoos - tons	4764	4246	4851	4456
Portland cement - thousand tons	2243	2186	2204	2297
Quicklime, slaked lime and hydraulic lime - thousand tons	1277	1519	1416	1279
Non-refractory clay building bricks - thousand cub. m	484	564	693	671
Bituminous mixtures based on natural asphalt, on natural bitumen, on petroleum bitumen, on mineral tar or on mineral tar pitch - thousand tons	3735	4542	3035	2274
Corrugated paper and paperboard in rolls or sheets - thousand tons	158	166	158	156

6. Output of basic industrial products¹

(Continued and end)

Industrial products	2020	2021	2022	2023
Toilet paper - thousand tons	31.7	27.1	23.7	21.1
Cotton yarn - thousand tons	1.0	1.3	0.9	0.7
Wool yarn - thousand tons	4.7	6.0	6.5	5.2
Cotton fabrics - million sq. m	6.3	5.0	5.1	4.2
Panty hose and tights - million items	2.4	2.5	2.8	1.5
Socks - million pairs	46.0	56.7	54.7	24.5
Bed linen of cotton (excluding knitted or crocheted) - tons	1484	1377	1049	639
Footwear with leather uppers, with rubber, plastic or leather outer soles (including boots; excluding sports footwear, footwear with a protective metal toe-cap) - thousand pairs	1529	1594	1592	1208
Meat (excl. edible offal) ¹ - thousand tons	186	207	210	209
Sausages - thousand tons	102	102	106	99
Fish and fish products processed and preserved - thousand tons	11	15	18	10
Vegetables processed and preserved ¹ - thousand tons	82	78	80	80
Fruit manufactured and preserved ¹ - thousand tons	78	75	76	75
Butter, fats and other cream based on milk ¹ - thousand tons	1	1	1	1
White cheese ¹ - thousand tons	66	62	62	63
Yellow cheese ¹ - thousand tons	26	28	25	26
Milk in liquid form ¹ - thousand litres	74030	75206	72050	65930
Yoghurt ¹ - thousand tons	157	158	163	161
Refined sunflower oil and its fractions (excluding chemically modified) - thousand tons	151	133	180	173
Mayonnaise, other sauces and preparations therefor, mixed condiments and mixed seasonings - thousand tons	16	17	16	16
Wheat or meslin flour - thousand tons	484	469	503	462
Rice - thousand tons	23	22	30	18
Prepared feeds for farm animals (excluding premixtures) - thousand tons	853	942	923	699
Uncooked pasta - tons	11101	9273	10799	8604
Jams, marmalades, fruit jellies, fruit or nut purees and pastes (excluding of citrus fruit, homogenised preparations) - thousand tons	11	14	12	10
Spirits obtained from distilled grape wine or grape marc - thousand litres alc 100%	5969	4898	5572	4653
Wines, including with 'Protected geographical indication (PGI)' and sort of wines and grape must with fermentation prevented or arrested by the addition of alcohol (excluding sparkling wine and wine with 'Protected Designation of Origin') - million litres	107	110	100	92
Beer made from malt (excluding non-alcoholic beer, beer containing ≤ 0.5% by volume of alcohol) - million litres	445	439	442	455
Cigarettes containing tobacco or mixtures of tobacco and tobacco substitutes - million items	..	..	..	..

¹ Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

XVII. CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING FUND





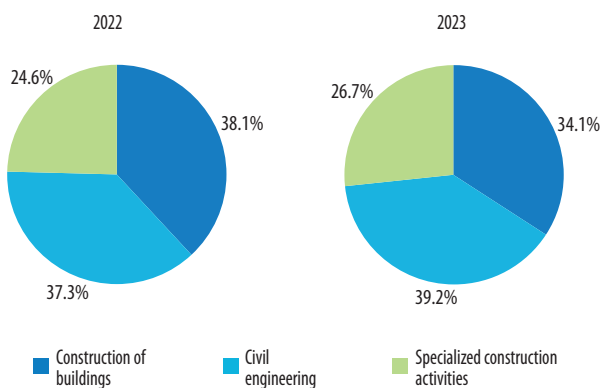
Production of enterprises in construction

Data on the production of enterprises in the construction are shown at current prices.

The enterprises are classified by economic activity grouping according to the Classification of Economic Activities (NACE.BG - 2008), where they are divided as follows: Construction of buildings, Civil engineering and Specialized construction activities.

According to the Eurostat Regulations from 2021 the production value (value of output) does not include the charged excise duties and other operating income, but includes the income from product- or turnover-related subsidies from state support.

Figure 1. Structure of production of construction enterprises





1. Production of construction enterprises

(Thousand BGN)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	23238966	20595054	23407443	20282224
Construction of buildings	7037591	7180296	8927586	6905553
Civil engineering	11696873	8553832	8725154	7951841
Specialized construction activities	4504502	4860926	5754703	5424830



Housing fund

Data about the housing fund as of the end of 2023 is calculated on the basis of the results of the Census of the housing fund as of 7th September 2021, and accumulation of the number of new constructed residential buildings and deduction of the number of destroyed residential buildings during the period 7.09.2021 - 31.12.2023.

Residential buildings are the buildings which by initial building or after reconstruction are suitable for living and consist of one or more dwellings which take at least 60% from the total area. In the coverage of the survey 'Housing fund at the end of the year' are included inhabited and uninhabited residential buildings, campuses and buildings of institutional households.

Steel-concrete buildings are those of which the carrier and the floor constructions are built of steel-concrete and the walls are made of panels, brick masonry or other materials.

Solid structures are those of which the carrier walls are of brick and stone masonry and the belts, the beams and the floor construction are made of steel-concrete but have no steel-concrete columns. The buildings of which the floor elements are precast reinforced concrete units also refers to the solid structures.

In the group of 'other buildings' are included the structures that are built of stones, sun-dried brick, wood and other materials.

Figure 2. Dwellings

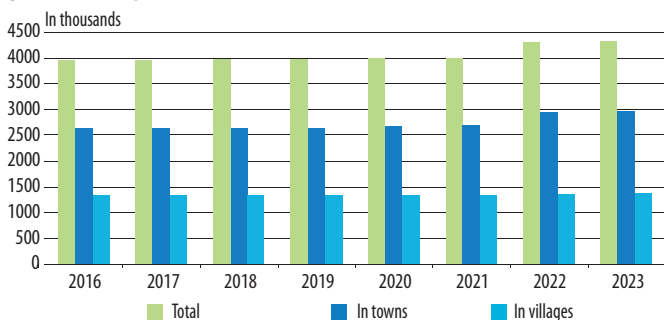
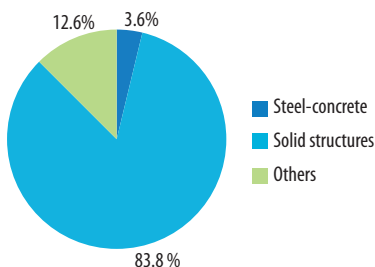


Figure 3. Structure of residential buildings by kind of construction in 2023





2. Housing fund

	2020	2021	2022*	2023
	Total			
Dwellings - thousands numbers	3985	4002	4283	4304
Useful floor space - thousand sq. m	292540	294220	346735	348915
of which: Living floor space ¹	248805	250117	270713	272430
	In towns			
Dwellings - thousands numbers	2658	2673	2927	2944
Useful floor space - thousand sq. m	197174	198571	236292	237959
of which: Living floor space ¹	167343	168440	182901	184217
	In villages			
Dwellings - thousands numbers	1327	1329	1356	1360
Useful floor space - thousand sq. m	95366	95649	110443	110956
of which: Living floor space ¹	81462	81677	87812	88213

¹ From 1.01.2019 the living floor space includes the space of the kitchens over 4 sq. m.

3. Residential buildings by structure of building

(Thousand numbers)

	2020	2021	2022*	2023
	Total			
Total	2082	2085	2062	2066
Steel-concrete	90	93	71	75
Solid structures	1651	1651	1731	1731
Others	341	341	260	260
	In towns			
Total	783	785	809	811
Steel-concrete	59	61	45	47
Solid structures	667	667	723	723
Others	57	57	41	41
	In villages			
Total	1299	1300	1253	1255
Steel-concrete	31	32	26	28
Solid structures	984	984	1008	1008
Others	284	284	219	219

* Due to a recalculation of the housing fund for 2022, the data is updated.



Permits issued for buildings and dwellings completed

Data about building permits issued for construction are collected from quarterly statistical surveys made by NSI, which ensure information about building permits issued for construction of new buildings, for the type of buildings and the gross building area by municipal authorities.

Type of buildings is classified according to the Classification of types of construction (CC) and is divided into:

- Residential - buildings, the useful floor area of which is mostly used for permanent residential habitation.
- Non-residential - buildings for various purpose, including:
 - administrative - offices and buildings for administrative work of departments and other organizations and associations (representative buildings - banks, post offices, government department offices, conference and congress centres, court-of-law, municipal halls, etc.);
 - other buildings - buildings used for different activities: production, trade, transport, education, cultural purposes, sports, agriculture, health, recreation and facilities for short accommodation (hotels, motels, rest houses, huts and others).

The gross building area is the sum of all floors areas according to their external dimensions.

In the scope of the survey were the newly built residential buildings with approved record of handover Form 16 or a valid usage license according to Regulation № 2/31.07.2003 of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works.

Living floor space includes the space of the rooms and kitchens over 4 sq. m. floor area. The space of the kitchens with over 4 sq. m floor area was presented separately before 31.12.2018.

A room is defined as a space in the dwelling enclosed by walls reaching from the floor to the ceiling or roof, of a size large enough to hold a bed for an adult (4 sq. metres at least) and at least 2 metres high over the major area of the ceiling.

Service floor space is the floor area of the rooms and kitchens with less than 4 square meters of floor area, vestibules with a portal or another screen, corridors, bathrooms, toilets, larders, hanging closets, other service rooms such as drying-rooms, laundries or balconies regardless of their space.

The useful floor space of the dwelling is the sum of the living floor space and the service floor space.



4. Buildings permits issued for construction of new buildings

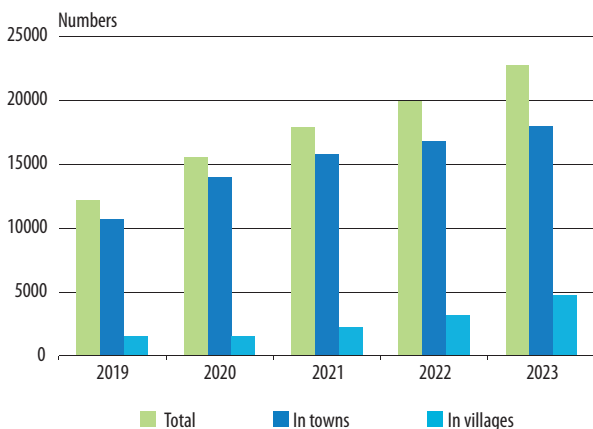
Kind of buildings	2020	2021	2022	2023
Residential buildings - in numbers	5860	7047	8169	8165
Dwellings in residential buildings - in numbers	29438	39998	48210	47290
Gross building area - thousand sq. m	3746	4686	5649	5374
Administrative buildings - in numbers	95	96	70	80
Gross building area - thousand sq. m	158	181	115	210
The other buildings - in numbers	3944	4685	4631	4923
Gross building area - thousand sq. m	1920	2544	2528	2921

5. Dwellings completed

	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Total			
Dwellings - in numbers	15415	17868	19847	22649
Useful floor space - thousand sq. m	1433	1748	2039	2240
of which: Living floor space ¹	1089	1367	1615	1767
	In towns			
Dwellings - in numbers	13978	15731	16705	17951
Useful floor space - thousand sq. m	1215	1444	1559	1704
of which: Living floor space ¹	926	1134	1238	1347
	In villages			
Dwellings - in numbers	1437	2137	3142	4698
Useful floor space - thousand sq. m	218	304	480	536
of which: Living floor space ¹	163	233	377	420

¹ From 01.01.2019 the living floor space includes the space of the kitchens over 4 sq. m.

Figure 4. Dwellings completed



XVIII. ENERGY



Overall energy balance sheet

The overall energy balance (OEB) is an aggregate of the energy balances of all energy products consumed in the country, in an unified unit of measurement. It consists of the following indicators:

Primary energy production represents any kind of extraction of energy products from natural sources on the territory of the country. Includes coal production (purified production to be reported), crude oil, natural gas, nuclear energy, renewable energy (water, wind, solar, geothermal and heat from the environment), biomass, biogas, liquid biofuels and non-renewable fuels. Since 2019 it has comprised also primary heat production which is calculated by estimation of the quantities of electricity and heat produced from 'heat from chemical processes' and efficiency of the production process.

Recovered and recycled products refer to slurry and shale from coal recovered from mines as well as to lubricating oils used for petroleum products, which are processed.

Imports (incl. arrivals) and *exports* (incl. dispatches) include the quantities passed through the political boundaries of the country, whether customs clearance has taken place or not. Transit is not reported (excluding electricity). Only energy products, produced in the country, are reported as exports in the energy balance.

Stock change is the difference between stocks at the beginning and at the end of the year in producers, large trade companies and consumers.

Gross available energy is calculated from *primary energy production + recovered and recycled products + imports - exports + stock change*. Shows the amount of energy, required to meet energy demand in the country.

International maritime bunkers are the quantities of fuels delivered to ships of all flags that are engaged in international navigation. The international navigation may take place at sea, on inland lakes and waterways, and in coastal waters (port of departure and port of arrival in different countries).

Gross inland consumption is calculated as *Gross Available Energy* less the *International maritime bunkers*.

International aviation are quantities of fuels delivered to aircrafts for international flights. The domestic/international split is determined on the basis of departure and landing locations and not by the nationality of the airline.



1. Overall energy balance sheet for 2022

	(Thousand tons of oil equivalent)					
	Total	Solid fossil fuels	Manufactured gases	Peat and peat products	Oil shale and oil sands	Oil and petroleum products
Primary production	13157.3	5899.0	-	-	8.2	¹ 3.0
Recovered and recycled products	21.8	4.4	-	-	-	17.4
Imports	12873.3	804.9	-	-	-	9351.8
Exports	5586.9	78.4	-	-	-	4154.6
Change in stock	-842.8	-368.9	-	-	-3.1	-318.3
Gross available energy	19622.7	6261.0	-	-	5.1	4899.4
International maritime bunkers	68.4	-	-	-	-	68.4
Gross inland consumption	19554.4	6261.0	-	-	5.1	4831.0
International aviation	218.9	-	-	-	-	218.9
Total energy supply	19335.5	6261.0	-	-	5.1	4612.1
Transformation input	21128.7	6094.0	-	-	-	8198.8
Transformation output	13589.6	179.8	-	-	-	8005.5
Energy sector	1136.9	0.0	-	-	-	469.1
Distribution losses	414.2	15.4	-	-	3.8	1.2
Available for final consumption	10245.2	331.4	-	-	1.3	3948.6
Final non-energy consumption	406.2	53.7	-	-	-	224.2
Final energy consumption	9854.1	264.6	-	-	-	3738.2
Statistical differences	-15.1	13.1	-	-	1.3	-13.8

¹ Data for 2022 refers to production of Additives/oxygenates and does not include crude oil production due to confidentiality.

1. Overall energy balance sheet for 2022

	(Thousand tons of oil equivalent)					
	Natural gas	Renewables and biofuels	Non-renewable waste	Nuclear energy	Heat	Electricity
Primary production	14.7	2800.6	77.5	4289.7	64.6	-
Recovered and recycled products	-	-	-	-	-	-
Imports	2467.2	122.9	-	-	-	126.4
Exports	-	179.0	-	-	-	1174.9
Change in stock	-156.6	4.2	-	-	-	-
Gross available energy	2325.3	2748.7	77.5	4289.7	64.6	-1048.5
International maritime bunkers	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross inland consumption	2325.3	2748.7	77.5	4289.7	64.6	-1048.5
International aviation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total energy supply	2325.3	2748.7	77.5	4289.7	64.6	-1048.5
Transformation input	988.9	1471.8	7.4	4289.7	73.9	4.3
Transformation output	-	192.6	-	-	869.6	4342.2
Energy sector	19.2	-	-	-	145.7	502.8
Distribution losses	15.8	-	-	-	162.1	215.9
Available for final consumption	1301.4	1469.5	70.2	-	552.4	2570.6
Final non-energy consumption	128.3	-	-	-	-	-
Final energy consumption	1108.0	1476.0	70.2	-	555.7	2641.4
Statistical differences	65.1	-6.6	-	-	-3.4	-70.7

Total energy supply represents the amount of energy required to meet domestic consumption in the country. For secondary products derived from a transformation process, the data may be a negative number.

Transformation input are fuels and energy used to produce other energy products.

Transformation output are the quantities of the secondary energy products derived from different transformation processes: production of electricity and heat, briquetting, coke and blast furnace, production of petroleum products. The total heat production of main activity producer plants and the produced heat sold to third parties by Autoproducer plants are reported.

Consumption of the energy sector reflects final consumption of energy and fuels (not transformed in other energy products) for the implementation and maintenance of the main activity of companies producing energy products.

Distribution losses includes losses in gas and heat transmission and distribution, electricity transmission and distribution and transport of other fuels.

Available for final consumption are the quantities of energy products available for final use. This indicator is calculated as: *Total energy supply - Transformation input + Transformation output - Energy Sector Consumption - Distribution losses*.

There are two types of final consumption: non-energy and energy consumption.

Final non-energy consumption shows the quantities of fuels used as raw materials for the production of non-fuel products.

Final energy consumption contains data for consumed energy products, which are not transformed into others. The quantities of fuel consumed in the Autoproducer plants for the production of heat, used for inner plants' activities, are reported as final energy consumption by the relevant sector of economic activity.

Statistical difference is the difference between *Available for final consumption* and *Final consumption* (non-energy and energy).

The information on the overall energy balance is presented in thousand tons of oil equivalent. The Joule and its multiples are used as common energy unit of measure in international practice. The conversion from one type of measure unit into another is effected by the following relation:

1 Gigajoule = 278 kWh = 0.023885 toe.



2. Structure of primary energy production

	(Per cent)			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Solid fossil fuels	40.0	34.5	38.7	44.8
Oil shale and oil sands	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Oil and petroleum products ¹	..	..	..	0.0
Natural gas	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1
Renewables and biofuels	21.8	23.8	24.5	21.3
Non-renewable waste	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Nuclear energy	36.8	40.0	35.4	32.6
Heat ²	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5

¹ Data for 2022 refers to production of Additives/oxygenates and does not include crude oil production due to confidentiality.

² Heat from chemical processes.

3. Final energy consumption by sectors

	2020	2021	2022	2022 in % to 2021
	Thousand tons of oil equivalent			
Total	9499.7	10164.4	9854.1	96.9
Industry	2646.4	2823.8	2700.7	95.6
Iron and steel	106.2	114.2	102.9	90.2
Chemical and petrochemical	770.6	829.2	756.9	91.3
Non-ferrous metals	180.4	182.8	176.4	96.5
Non-metallic minerals	560.8	599.4	579.9	96.7
Transport equipment	15.3	17.9	18.1	101.1
Machinery	124.9	133.5	129.1	96.7
Mining and quarrying	159.7	182.3	174.9	96.0
Food, beverages & tobacco	249.7	277.5	285.1	102.7
Paper, pulp and printing	191.6	177.9	193.2	108.6
Wood and wood products	81.6	89.9	74.9	83.4
Construction	73.7	83.7	72.0	86.0
Textile and leather	52.1	53.2	51.6	97.0
Not elsewhere specified (industry)	79.7	82.3	85.7	104.2
Transport	3209.8	3434.6	3468.1	101.0
Rail	41.8	44.7	44.5	99.6
Road	3127.8	3328.2	3331.1	100.1
Domestic aviation	3.9	5.1	8.0	157.2
Domestic navigation	-	0.1	0.2	133.9
Pipeline transport	36.2	56.5	84.4	149.2
Not elsewhere specified (transport)	-	-	-	-
Other	3643.6	3906.0	3685.3	94.3
Commercial and public services	1066.1	1299.9	1343.4	103.3
Households	2382.2	2402.6	2137.4	89.0
Agriculture and forestry	188.1	193.8	193.3	99.8
Fishing	0.8	0.7	0.6	92.7
Not elsewhere specified (other)	6.3	9.2	10.6	115.7

Figure 1. Energy flows

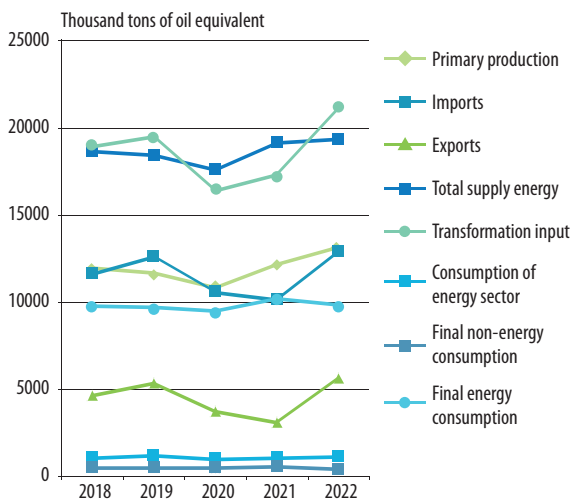
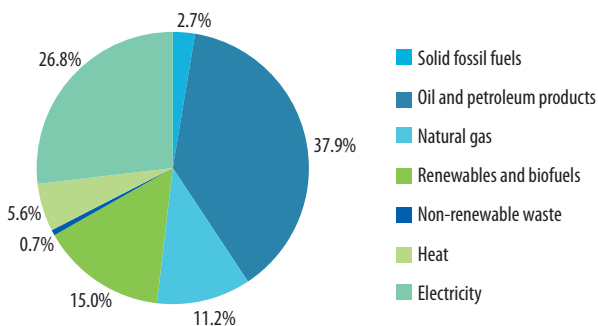


Figure 2. Structure of final energy consumption by energy sources in 2022





4. Balance of electricity

	(GWh)			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Gross production	44276.6	40754.4	47568.1	50499.3
Net production	40321.0	37222.8	43457.8	45960.0
Imports	3044.9	3706.7	1857.0	1470.0
Exports	8855.1	7114.8	10635.3	13664.6
Transformation input - electricity and heat generation (for pumped storage)	649.7	720.4	376.9	49.6
Supply	33861.1	33094.3	34302.6	33715.7
Distribution losses	2766.5	2595.4	2602.3	2510.6
Available for final consumption	31094.5	30498.9	31700.2	31205.1
Energy sector	1481.3	1214.5	1119.0	1308.6
Industry	9830.3	9456.9	9693.3	9608.4
Transport	455.7	422.8	450.4	454.2
Households	10843.9	11356.2	11953.3	11969.7
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	330.8	382.0	317.6	277.9
Commercial and public services	8754.6	6992.2	8555.1	8409.1
Statistical differences	-601.9	674.4	-388.6	-822.7

Electricity and heat

Electricity generation is the gross electricity generation which is the sum of the electric energy produced by all generating sets concerned (incl. pumped storage), measured at the output terminals of the main generators.

The gross electricity generation includes the electric energy, absorbed by the power plants' own generating auxiliaries and the losses in the main generator transformers.

Heat production covers gross heat production by the public plants and only heat production by auto-producers which is sold to third parties.

The public plants (Main Activity Producers) report the gross heat produced by the installations. This is the heat produced by the installations, including own needs.

Auto-producers report the heat sold to third parties only. The production of heat used by a company for its main activity is not included.

The Available for final consumption is on the one hand: *Gross production – Net production + Imports – Exports – Transformation input for electricity and heat generation (incl. Pumped storage) – Distribution losses*, and on the other: *Final energy consumption by sectors (Industry, Transport, Households, Agriculture, forestry and fishing, Commerce and public services, Energy sector) + Statistical difference*.

The electricity consumption by economic activities does not include the own needs of power plants, as it is reported in the consumption of Energy sector.

The available amount of heat for final consumption to be interpreted similarly.



5. Balance of heat

	(GWh)			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Gross production	10777.0	10841.4	11390.4	10113.0
Net production	10182.5	10281.9	10804.1	9611.0
Transformation input - electricity and heat generation	117.4	132.2	135.8	108.6
Supply	10065.1	10149.7	10668.3	9502.4
Distribution losses	2024.3	1909.2	2029.8	1885.3
Available for final consumption	8040.7	8240.5	8638.6	7617.1
Energy sector	1801.0	1865.5	1898.7	1193.0
Industry	1190.6	1285.0	1214.9	1376.5
Households	3577.0	3837.2	3940.6	3575.0
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	120.6	152.2	94.5	68.4
Commercial and public services	1402.5	1145.5	1439.9	1443.3
Statistical differences	-51.0	-45.0	50.0	-39.2

Figure 3. Structure of electricity consumption by sectors

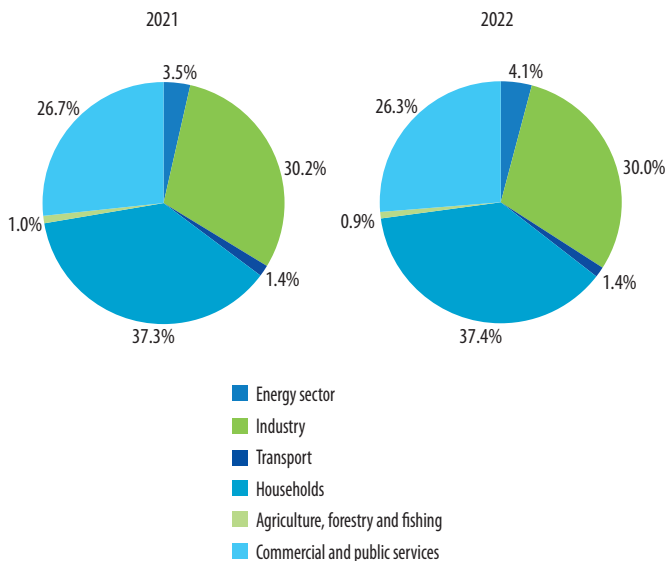
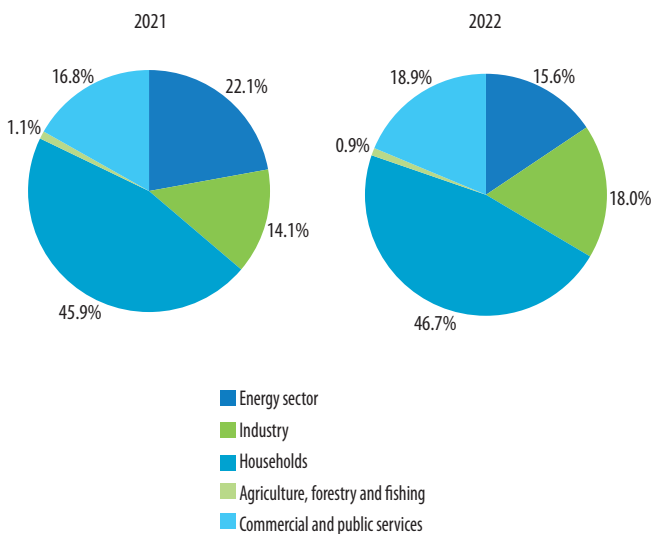
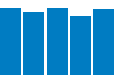


Figure 4. Structure of heat consumption by sectors



XIX. TRANSPORT





Transport - main data on transport development

Transport is a branch in the national economy which comprises transport enterprises providing services for hire or reward. According to the National classification of economic activities, this section includes all kinds of transport (railway, road, maritime, inland waterway, air, pipeline and urban electric transport).

The section consists of basic data characterizing the state and changes that occurred in the public and private sector.

The total length of the railway lines includes current road and station platforms. The current road covers the length of the railway lines between the stations' axes and the distance between the border stations and the state borders. The length of the double and the electrified railway lines is measured in one direction.

The international regular bus lines are included in the coach lines.

The route length of the trolleybus and electric bus lines, the tram network and the metro is a sum of the total one-way operational length of the lines. The length of the overlaying lines is reported only once.

The data source of registered freight vehicles and buses is the Security Police Service Department at the Ministry of Interior.

The number of trolleybuses, electric buses, trams and metro motorcars is related to the available vehicles owned by the urban electrical enterprises.



1. Basic transport data

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Length of track, incl. sidings - km	5464	5460	5451	5451
of which: Running track - km	4029	4031	4029	4029
Share of electrified running track - %	71.2	73.4	73.5	73.4
Coach lines - number	2767	2736	3099	3030
Total length of coach lines - thousand km	325.3	405.3	351.6	325.2
Towns with trolleybus lines - number	10	10	10	10
Route length of trolleybus lines as of 31.12. - km	447	479	409	419
Route length of electric bus lines as of 31.12. - km	33	66	317	444
Route length of tram lines as of 31.12. - km	131	133	139	125
Route length of underground lines as of 31.12. - km	46	50	50	50

2. Means of transport by kind as of 31.12.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Registered cargo vehicles - number	499727	499311	514373	532355
Lorries	412031	410197	422213	436804
Special vehicles	38296	40797	42762	45204
Road tractors	49400	48317	49398	50347
Registered busses - number	19080	17352	17534	17942
Trolleybuses - number	370	379	330	337
Passenger seats - number	38321	39591	35568	36162
Electric buses - number	15	45	99	209
Passenger seats - number	1110	3210	6261	15068
Trams - number	317	316	301	314
Passenger seats - number	63337	61361	57271	59879
Railcars for underground electrical transport - number	268	298	298	298
Passenger seats - number	76404	82574	82574	82574
Sea cargoships - number	1	1	1	1
Carrying capacity - thousand tons	7	7	7	7
Sea passenger ships - number	10	11	11	9
Passenger seats/berths - number	355	403	397	228
Inland non-self-propelled cargoships - number	101	98	107	108
Carrying capacity - thousand tons	170	165	181	177
Inland passenger boats - number	1	1	5	5
Seats/berths - number	243	243	885	885

Goods and passengers carried and transport performance

The main indicators characterizing transport activities are related to the carriage of goods and passengers via land, sea, air and urban electrical transport.

Land transport includes the transport activities by rail and road, as well as the carriage of goods by pipeline transport.

Data on freight land transport include the goods carried and the transport performance of railway, road and pipeline transport. The land passenger transport covers the number of passengers carried and the transport performance of railway and road transport.

The data on urban electrical transport include passengers carried and transport performance of the trolleybus transport in the country, tramway transport and metro in Sofia (capital).

Freight transport

Figure 1. Goods carried by mode of transport

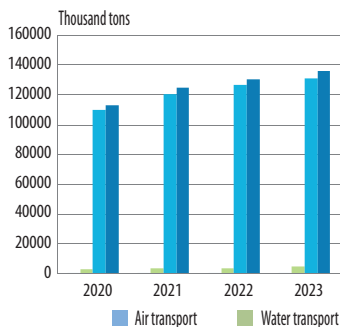
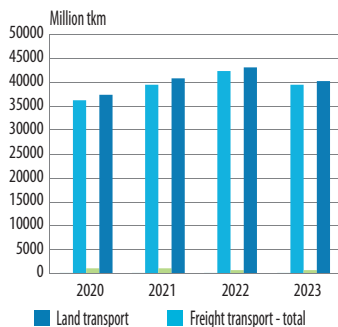


Figure 2. Transport performance by mode of transport



Passenger transport

Figure 3. Passengers carried by mode of transport

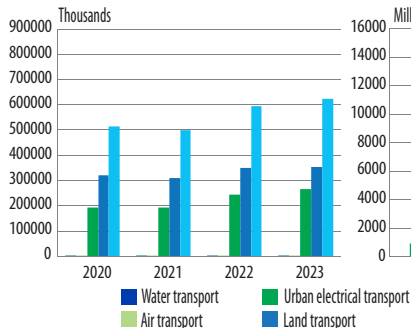
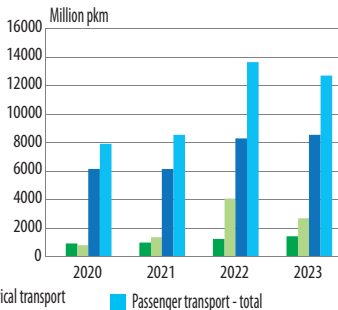


Figure 4. Transport performance by mode of transport





3. Goods carried and transport performance by mode of transport

Mode of transport	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Goods carried - thousand tons			
Total	113118	124804	130504	136103
Land transport ¹	110270	120781	126881	131310
Water transport ²	2827	3992	3608	4776
Air transport	21	31	15	17
	Transport performance - million tkm			
Total	37477	40801	43162	40288
Land transport ¹	36350	39635	42367	39542
Water transport ²	1108	1147	780	723
Air transport	19	19	15	23

¹ Railways, road and pipeline transport.

² Maritime and inland transport.

4. Passengers carried and transport performance by mode of transport

Mode of transport	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Passengers carried - in thousands			
Total	512458	500184	593201	624849
Land transport ¹	318768	307614	348402	355001
Water transport ²	91	152	214	275
Air transport	591	603	2418	2451
Urban electrical transport	193008	191815	242167	267122
	Transport performance - million pkm			
Total	7928	8535	13688	12714
Land transport ¹	6157	6155	8341	8552
Water transport ²	6	6	29	37
Air transport	816	1386	4062	2698
Urban electrical transport	949	988	1256	1427

¹ Excl. free of charge travels by railways and road transport.

² Maritime and inland waterway transport.

XX. TOURISM



Accommodation establishments

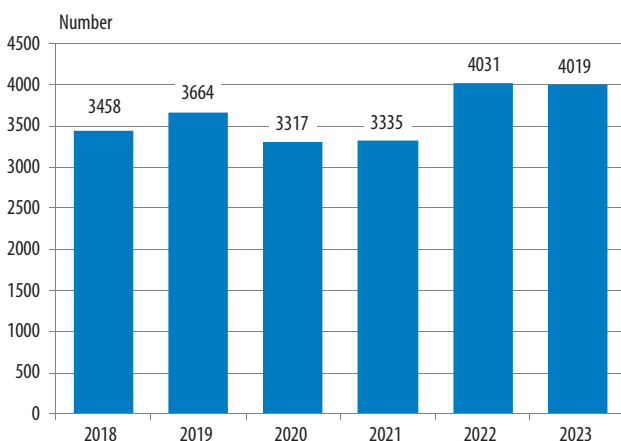
The methodology used in statistical surveys on tourism is in line with the Regulation 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning European statistics on tourism and Commission Regulation 1051/2011 implementing Regulation 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning European statistics on tourism, with regards to the structure of the quality reports and the transmission of the data.

Objects of the survey are all accommodation establishments in use with 10 or more bed-places - hotels, camping sites and other establishments for short-term accommodation (holiday settlements, hostels, guesthouses, bungalows, rest houses, mountain chalets, private rooms and flats, and other).

The observation of accommodation establishments collects various data by types of accommodation establishments, nights spent, arrivals in accommodation establishments, revenues from nights spent and others.

In 2023, there were 4 019 public and private accommodation establishments functioning in the country - hotels, motels, mountain chalets, camping sites and other establishments for short-term accommodation with 10 or more bed places.

Figure 1. Accommodation establishments





1. Accommodation establishments¹

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Accommodation establishments - number	3317	3335	4031	4019
Bed-places - in thousands	281.7	304.2	354.7	359.9
Bed-nights - in thousands	47573	57701	68969	72890
Using of bed-nights - %	25.2	30.5	35.0	36.9
Nights spent - in thousands	11968	17620	24173	26865
of which: By non-residents	4656	7994	12887	14554
Revenues from nights spent - million BGN	645.5	1071.7	1675.8	2080.2
Hotels - number	1960	1960	2276	2259
Bed-places - in thousands	233.6	255.0	294.2	299.1
Bed-nights - in thousands	39784	48560	58037	61146
Using of bed-nights - %	26.5	32.7	38.1	40.1
Nights spent - in thousands	10523	15889	22117	24532
of which: By non-residents	4527	7818	12557	14200
Revenues from nights spent - million BGN	608.2	1021.9	1604.8	1990.5
Camping sites - number	14	12	14	35
Bed-places - in thousands	0.7	1.0	1.1	1.6
Bed-nights - in thousands	115	126	130	324
Using of bed-nights - %	63.8	67.5	53.2	39.6
Nights spent - in thousands	74	85	69	128
of which: By non-residents	2	2	3	9
Revenues from nights spent - million BGN	0.5	0.7	0.7	2.5
Other establishments for short-term accommodation - number	1343	1363	1741	1725
Bed-places - in thousands	47.4	48.2	59.4	59.2
Bed-nights - in thousands	7674	9015	10802	11420
Using of bed-nights - %	17.9	18.3	18.4	19.3
Nights spent - in thousands	1371	1646	1987	2205
of which: By non-residents	127	174	327	345
Revenues from nights spent - million BGN	36.8	49.1	70.3	87.2

¹ In use.

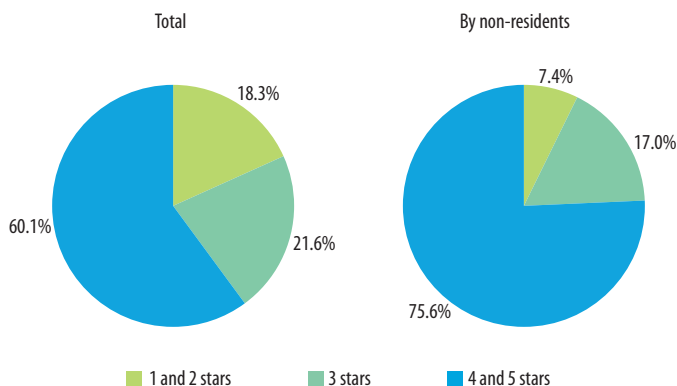
Nights spent

The total number of the nights spent in all accommodation establishments in 2023 was 26 865.1 thousand and increased by 2 691.8 thousand (11.1%) compared to 2022. The number of the nights spent by non-residents (14 554.0 thousand) in all accommodation establishments increased by 12.9% in 2023 compared to the previous year.

Almost all foreign citizens - 97.6%, preferred to spend the night in hotels while 2.4% of them spent nights in other accommodation establishments (camping sites, mountain chalets and other establishments for short-time accommodation).

The structure of the nights spent by non-residents in 2023 showed that the highest percentage of nights was spent in four and five-stars accommodation establishments (75.6%), followed by those with three stars (17.0%) and those with one and two stars (7.4%).

Figure 2. Structure of the nights spent in accommodation establishments by categories in 2023





2. Nights spent by non-residents in accommodation establishments by country of origin and by categories in 2023

(Number)

Country	Total	Categories of accommodation establishments			
		1 and 2 stars	3 stars	4 stars	5 stars
Total	14554042	1080549	2465983	8621067	2386443
EU	9525720	560209	1455916	6016213	1493382
Austria	121546	5027	12139	76582	27798
Belgium	125531	8497	10839	77941	28254
Croatia	1376932	42889	133427	955578	245038
Cyprus	213929	16226	38354	118758	40591
Czechia	130391	7401	19291	84187	19512
Denmark	44825	3181	8122	27429	6093
Estonia	135842	24115	24567	68292	18868
Finland	114779	10800	23716	50423	29840
France	183216	18661	41459	89197	33899
Germany	28179	1691	4248	15388	6852
Greece	49983	3012	11609	28205	7157
Hungary	113050	4562	15965	75527	16996
Ireland	12777	198	801	7583	4195
Italy	9227	595	1801	4628	2203
Latvia	153531	13911	21078	97019	21523
Lithuania	1662198	86336	304377	1085131	186354
Luxemburg	35186	2602	10512	16217	5855
Malta	3276866	176394	447674	2107323	545475
Netherlands	249257	19478	64353	133626	31800
Poland	31193	4309	11938	12012	2934
Portugal	220574	23646	49658	127004	20266
Romania	60967	10679	8461	31285	10542
Slovakia	217975	16633	39102	124930	37310
Slovenia	30315	3445	7764	13752	5354
Spain	810694	47634	130210	517829	115021
Sweden	116757	8287	14451	70367	23652
Other European countries	3337080	402302	744190	1736902	453686
Norway	192225	30097	26279	99305	36544
Republic of North Macedonia	1214572	106889	199357	708217	200109
Russian Federation	156556	8537	27891	95838	24290
Serbia	111093	11828	21058	53250	24957
Switzerland	171911	23976	42263	83995	21677
Türkiye	287465	58754	49782	123015	55914
Ukraine	1160669	158287	370443	554533	77406
United Kingdom	42589	3934	7117	18749	12789
Other countries	809847	35486	70130	385519	318712
Israel	630982	23447	48529	321181	237825
Japan	165423	10162	18755	58699	77807
USA	13442	1877	2846	5639	3080
Rest of the world	881395	82552	195747	482433	120663

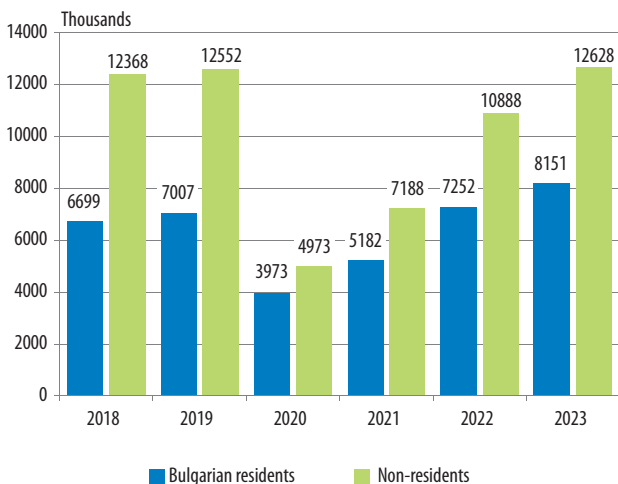
Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad and arrivals of visitors to Bulgaria

The statistical data on travel of Bulgarian residents abroad and on visits by non-residents in Bulgaria are developed on the basis of the monthly information received from the Ministry of the Interior and from a sample survey of the National Statistical Institute among Bulgarian and foreign citizens passing the border crossing control points.

The number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad during 2023 was 8 150.8 thousand, which is an increase of 12.4% compared to 2022.

In 2023, the number of visits from abroad to Bulgaria was 12 627.5 thousand, 47.4% of which were with other purpose, 42.2% with holiday and recreation purpose, and 10.4% with professional purpose. Compared to the previous year, the visits of foreign citizens to Bulgaria increased by 16.0%.

Figure 3. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad and arrivals of non-residents to Bulgaria





3. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad and arrivals of visitors to Bulgaria by country of origin

(Number)

Country	Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad		Arrivals of non-residents to Bulgaria by country of origin	
	2022 ¹	2023	2022 ²	2023
Total	7252301	8150840	10887952	12627547
EU	3292786	4619413	5352690	6274597
Austria	175147	256830	162847	183926
Belgium	75806	120451	117872	128725
Croatia	380940	489904	787004	897480
Cyprus	1320613	1871114	884500	1109412
Czechia	21437	31536	44129	48332
Denmark	8752	12137	44148	47844
Finland	131206	188757	67266	86655
France	207263	268534	136512	181514
Germany	5513	9382	19307	23514
Greece	6493	11390	6168	5339
Hungary	48302	80802	156911	185584
Ireland	44540	67552	412300	467505
Italy	11630	21982	15698	20686
Malta	503877	666846	1831226	2106097
Netherlands	25651	34696	70652	78424
Poland	19265	22842	11934	13605
Portugal	56683	66529	79951	99704
Romania	3813	6832	10718	20997
Slovakia	98201	194510	176473	200950
Slovenia	44259	51156	30373	32218
Spain	84495	115825	180579	198727
Sweden	9194	18369	48413	67133
Other countries from EU	9706	11437	57709	70226
Other European countries	2419851	3347477	4434280	5074511
Norway	3700	11809	33182	49312
Republic of North Macedonia	129852	194272	366492	399455
Russian Federation	237660	285543	425591	425012
Serbia	1000	1378	126122	139799
Switzerland	490969	624251	631220	643488
Türkiye	1540694	2200476	1883340	2200341
Ukraine	3289	1954	938757	1181911
United Kingdom	12687	27794	29576	35193
Other countries	20329	32901	280975	341388
Canada	9485	14121	174007	206570
Israel	3091	5365	16087	20225
USA	7753	13415	90881	114593
Rest of the world	93284	151049	820007	937051

¹ In connection with the epidemic situation related to the spread of COVID-19 in the Republic of Bulgaria and the temporarily suspended conduction of the statistical survey at the border, the data on the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad for **January - March 2022** was provided by the Ministry of Interior and included only the total number.

² In connection with the epidemic situation related to the spread of COVID-19 in the Republic of Bulgaria and the temporarily suspended conduction of the statistical survey at the border for the period **January - March 2022**, the Ministry of Interior provided all the data on visits of foreign citizens to Bulgaria.

XXI. FORESTRY



Total forest area

The total forest area covers all wooded, non-wooded and non-timber producing areas.

The deciduous high stemmed forests include trees of seedling origin, which are naturally and artificially established through afforestation by planting or seeding. The deciduous low stemmed forests include the same species as the deciduous high stemmed forests, but have shoots origin. The forests are managed through methods preserving their biological variety and shoots regeneration (including the stands of *Robina pseudoacacia*).

Wooded forest area is a land under natural or planted stands of trees and bushes that covers natural plantings, sparse forests and crops.

Data on afforestation are based on the inventory of forests.

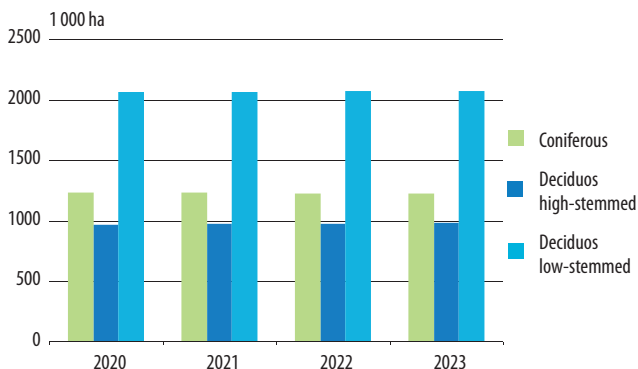
Afforestation in mature non-regenerated forest is defined as afforestation carried out in a mature forest (at age of main cutting) for which natural regeneration is insufficient.

Afforestation of sparse forests is carried out on areas with small numbers of trees per unit of area.

Reforestation of crops is afforestation in artificially established forest areas up to 3 years old for restoration of dry (lost) saplings.

Growing of crops includes activities aiming at supporting the initial growth and the stability of the saplings up to 3 years old (cutting of shoots, digging, removing of competitive plants, etc.)

Figure 1. Forest area by kind





1. Forest area¹

(1 000 ha)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Forest area by type	4270	4269	4273	4280
Coniferous	1237	1232	1229	1224
Deciduous	3033	3037	3044	3056
High-stemmed	967	972	974	982
Low-stemmed	2066	2065	2070	2074
of which: Wooded forest area²	3603	3921	3926	3936
Coniferous	1117	1115	1113	1109
Deciduous	2801	2806	2813	2827
High-stemmed	911	913	915	923
Low-stemmed	1890	1893	1898	1904

¹ Source: Executive Forest Agency.

² Incl. area under *Pinus mugo*.

2. Afforestation¹

(Hectares)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Preparation of area	1613	1508	2420	1743
Afforestation	1760	1645	1179	1711
New afforestation	999	957	654	783
Mature non-regenerated forests	714	605	587	879
Sparse forests	46	77	32	46
Establishment of two-storeyed plantations	677	535	418	643
Reforestation of artificial forests	482	625	760	955
Growing of crops	10094	9432	9968	10964

¹ Source: Executive Forest Agency.

Management of the forests

Thinning and cleaning are regular cuttings in young and middle aged plantations in order to regulate their species structure and to improve the growing conditions and the quality of timber production.

Sanitary logging is cutting of dead (lost) trees and bushes and trees damaged (broken) by storm and snow, in order to insure protection from calamities and diseases.

Supporting of natural regeneration includes all activities to facilitate the forest's natural regeneration - from seeds and shoots.

Figure 2. Management of the forests

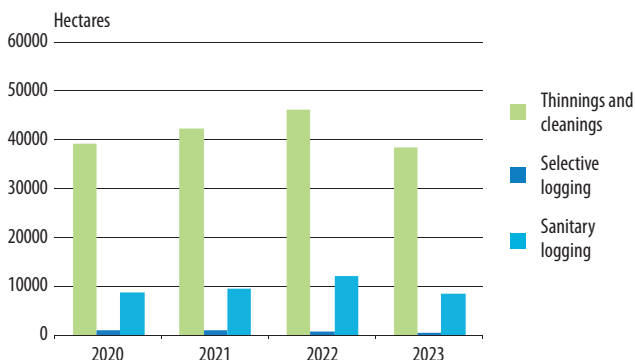
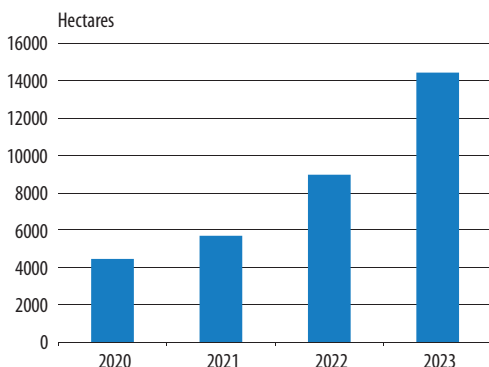


Figure 3. Supporting the natural reproduction of the forests





3. Management of the forests¹

(Hectares)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Thinnings and cleanings	39270	42189	46085	38351
Coniferous	21048	21200	21109	17172
Deciduous high-stemmed	11302	12875	15583	13938
Shoots	6920	8112	9393	7241
Selective logging	941	944	735	572
Coniferous	354	326	342	202
Deciduous high-stemmed	326	467	315	271
Shoots	261	151	78	99
Sanitary logging	8823	9620	12036	8414
Coniferous	6658	7619	9301	6071
Deciduous high-stemmed	941	666	1192	941
Shoots	1224	1335	1543	1402
Trimming	1636	1209	1203	1860
Supporting the natural reproduction	4463	5668	8956	14446
of which: Chisel shoots	3322	4045	4808	8554
Blazed timber logging fund	118844	109856	124819	115885
Coniferous	51729	46735	50332	45017
Deciduous high-stemmed	27052	26174	30059	26883
Shoots	40063	36946	44428	43985

4. Production of forest seeds¹

(Kilograms)

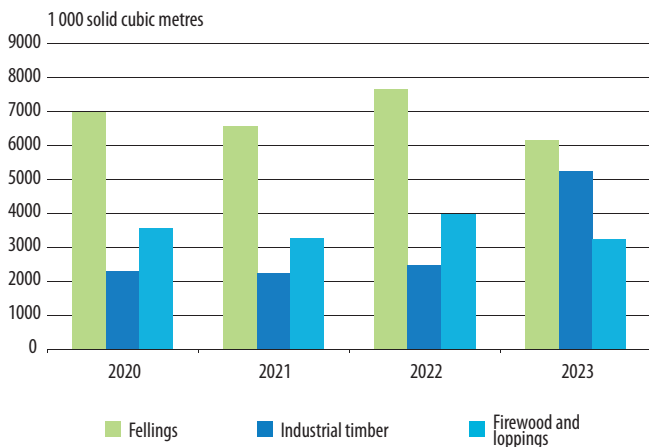
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pick of coniferous strobiles	6406	2977	4553	1224
Gathered and yield of seeds	34097	42155	50531	47921
Coniferous spaces	460	353	1480	4844
Deciduous spaces	34051	41802	49051	43077
of which: Oak acorn	32043	39978	47089	42479

¹ Source: Executive Forest Agency.

Wood

Data covers: total wood produced of industrial cuttings, firewood and loppings for the population, dead and fallen trees and wood, produced by sanitary logging, conducted in state and private forests.

Figure 4. Wood



5. Wood¹

(1 000 solid cubic metres)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Total			
Fellings	6972	6536	7644	6176
Removals	5829	5506	6416	5234
Industrial timber	2275	2232	2459	2004
Firewood and loppings	3554	3274	3957	3230
	Coniferous			
Fellings	3537	3017	3520	2807
Removals	2836	2401	2798	2262
Industrial timber	1667	1576	1699	1379
Firewood and loppings	1169	825	1099	883
	Deciduous			
Fellings	3435	3519	4124	3369
Removals	2993	3105	3618	2972
Industrial timber	608	656	760	625
Firewood and loppings	2385	2449	2858	2347
High-stem beech				
Fellings	683	647	795	656
Removals	583	563	687	571
Industrial timber	123	120	149	120
Firewood and loppings	460	444	537	451
High-stem oak				
Fellings	175	202	185	139
Removals	150	172	160	122
Industrial timber	29	35	32	26
Firewood and loppings	123	137	128	96
Other deciduous high-stemmed				
Fellings	513	544	645	593
Removals	453	490	563	518
Industrial timber	208	238	246	209
Firewood and loppings	244	253	317	309
Coppice				
Fellings	2064	2125	2497	1980
Removals	1807	1877	2207	1758
Industrial timber	248	263	331	269
Firewood and loppings	1558	1615	1875	1489

¹ Source: Executive Forest Agency.

Game

The number of game species in Bulgaria is determined on an annual basis through game counts carried out both in the state hunting areas and in the hunting areas, managed by the local hunting companies. The game counts consist in estimating the number of game by species, sex, age and number, settled on a certain territory, suitable for game breeding. The process of game counts is carried out through questionnaires, filled by the gamekeepers for the respective region. The Executive Forest Agency maintains a Register for the annual data on spring game counts on national level.

Figure 5. **Small game**

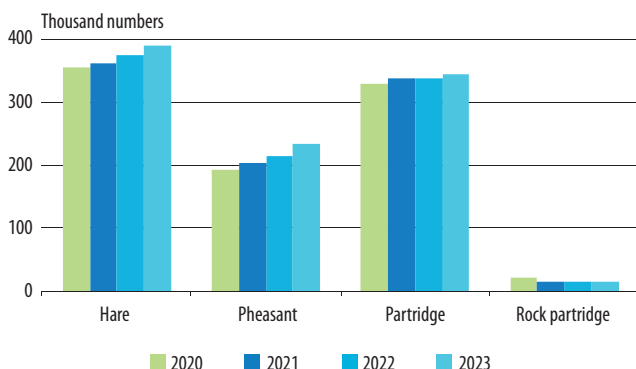
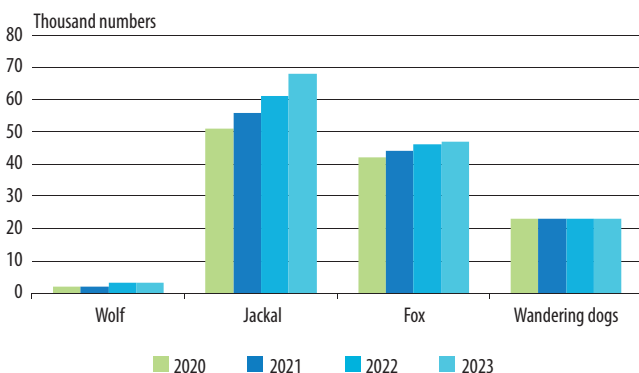


Figure 6. **Predatory animals**



6. Game¹

(Number)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Big game			
Red deer	31406	32819	35121	38434
Fallow deer	10312	10523	11589	12141
Deer	123850	125523	130755	134976
Wild boar	50397	40134	43654	47122
Wild goat	2657	2949	3319	3689
Mouflon	4680	4652	4256	4511
Bear	1011	995	1086	1206
Tibetan Yak	19	16	16	17
Auroch	62	65	67	72
Capercaillie	3233	3510	3709	3974
	Small game			
Hare	354124	362455	374148	390121
Pheasant	192596	203937	215662	233684
Partridge	328581	337199	337961	344290
Rock partridge	22227	15906	16165	16070
	Predatory animals			
Wolf	2586	2712	3082	3001
Jackal	51303	56436	61804	68279
Fox	42621	44235	46477	47129
Wandering dogs	23302	23193	23299	23355

¹ Source: Executive Forest Agency.

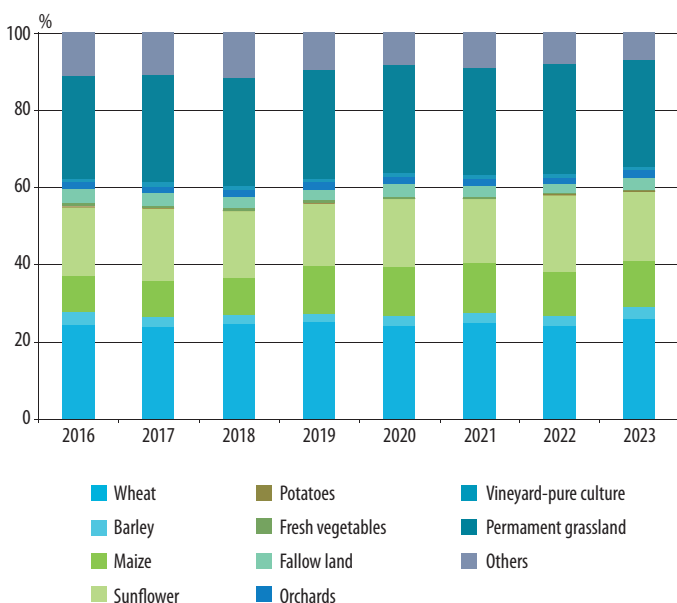
XXII. AGRICULTURE



Utilized agricultural area and arable land

The data on the crop area and the data on the utilized agricultural area is obtained under the Survey on land use and land cover in Bulgaria based on territorial sample. The survey is carried out during the May - July period and is implemented over the entire territory of Bulgaria. The land cover and land use are observed at approximately 110 000 points grouped in 3 123 segments. The surveyors observe the same points and the same segments each year.

Figure 1. Structure of the utilized agricultural area



1. Arable land and utilized agricultural area^{1,2}

(Hectares)

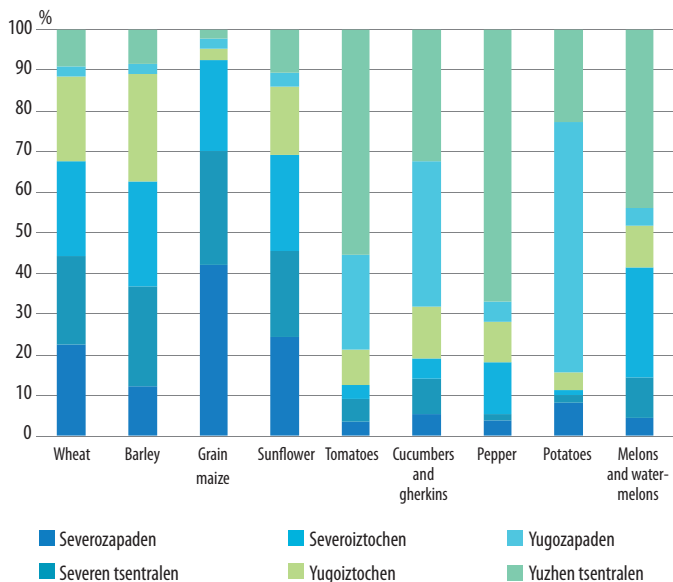
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Arable land	3477514	3486748	3455143	3472814
Wheat	1203964	1247453	1207969	1301482
Barley	131340	139109	127270	151880
Rye and triticales	25875	35053	31327	42042
Oats	11386	10421	13632	15210
Maize	642373	633735	572048	595560
Other cereals	22757	21903	14549	19930
Sunflower	888200	840185	985591	892956
Tobacco	5440	3015	3207	2502
Other oleaginous crops	120055	142838	146800	86532
Other industrial crops	65209	64261	48837	45574
Potatoes	11524	12363	10285	8948
Beans, peas, other pulses	24989	30584	22198	14934
Fresh vegetables	25705	31015	21206	23681
Annual fodder crops	8345	8115	5940	8528
Grassland under legumes	119134	119942	104618	103168
Grassland under cereals	8152	7345	5010	4402
Fallow land	161565	137707	132752	153480
Green houses	1502	1704	1904	2006
Utilized agricultural area	5047252	5046597	5022062	5002992
Kitchen gardens	14231	13728	13332	12739
Orchards	91339	90261	83572	82561
Vineyard - pure culture	51356	50252	47551	46948
Mixed permanent crop	7120	6820	6310	6016
Nurseries	1703	1709	1907	1506
Total permanent crop	151518	149042	139341	137031
Permanent grassland and meadows - orchards	1403988	1397079	1414246	1380408
Agricultural area	5227902	5227350	5226087	5208482

¹ Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food.² Data are obtained by the survey on land cover and land use of the territory of Bulgaria (BANCİK).

Agricultural crops production

Data on main agricultural crops production is obtained through the survey on the yield of main crops in 2023. The survey is carried out during the month of November through interview with the farmers. Total production of vegetables includes production from open areas and green houses.

Figure 2. Structure of the production of main crop products by statistical regions in 2023





2. Harvested area, production and yields of main crops¹

Crops	Harvested area - ha		Production - thousand tons		Yields- kg/ha	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Wheat	1206580	1221000	6230	6624	5164	5425
Barley	122411	149000	604	768	4930	5154
Grain maize	520461	533000	2496	2387	4796	4478
Sunflower	916959	867000	2117	1756	2309	2025

¹ Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

3. Area, production and yields of vegetable crops, potatoes and melons and watermelons¹

Crops	Harvested area ² - ha		Production ³ - tons		Yields ⁴ - kg/ha	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Tomatoes	2488	2603	126455	117915	27886	23293
Cucumbers and gherkins	272	444	52267	52968	19768	17793
Pepper	2215	2378	46793	52086	19112	19471
Potatoes	9159	7064	172209	119611	18800	16918
Melons and watermelons	5418	6530	101471	110004	18727	16846

¹ Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

² Harvested area, excl. area under glass.

³ Incl. under glass production (production of gherkins and melons is from open area only).

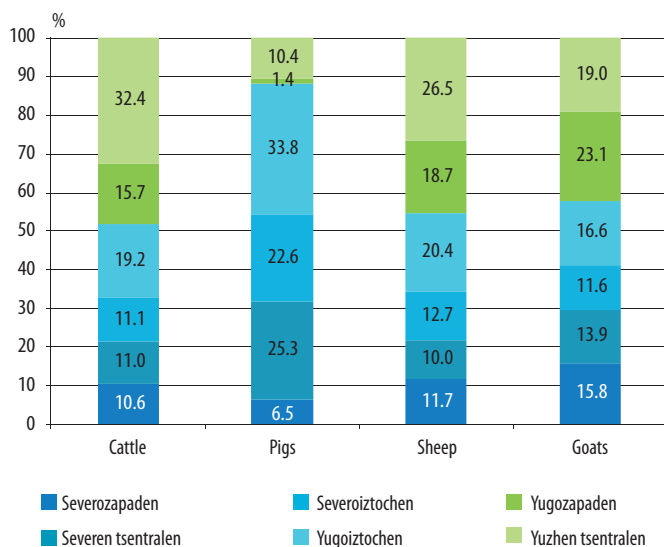
⁴ Average yields excl. production under glass.

Livestock

Information on the number of livestock in Bulgaria is obtained by means of a special survey. Statistical data on the type, category and number of animals, milk production and sales by directions, sales of animals for slaughter, slaughtered animals in farms and main information for structure of livestock is collected. The questionnaire is filled by means of interviews with livestock farmers.

Information on the number of poultry and eggs production is collected by a special survey. All the big farms are observed exhaustively. The results are supplemented with information from sample of small holdings raising poultry.

Figure 3. Structure of main livestock by statistical regions as of 1.11.2023





4. Livestock by type as of 1.11.¹

(Thousand numbers)

Type of animals	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cattle	568.7	589.5	559.5	553.4
of which: Cows	367.5	381.4	361.5	355.6
Buffalo	20.2	21.7	20.3	20.9
of which: Buffalo-cows	14.1	15.4	14.8	15.3
Pigs	592.1	694.7	601.7	724.7
of which: Sows	46.5	54.4	49.8	54.0
Sheep	1307.8	1199.5	1096.4	1072.8
of which: Ewes	1105.8	1013.2	928.9	901.2
Goats	253.4	215.0	184.0	175.0
of which: She-goats	207.7	179.8	156.3	145.3
Poultry	13964.0	14168.0	15507.0	14522.0
of which: Hens	7062.0	6659.0	7139.0	6583.1

5. Farms and livestock by type as of 1.11.2023¹

	Farms - in thousands	Livestock	
		In thousands	Average per farm - in numbers
Cattle	18.1	553.4	30.6
of which:			
Cows	17.5	355.6	20.3
Cattle less than 1 year old	9.7	104.9	10.8
Buffalo	0.5	20.9	41.8
of which: Buffalo-cows	0.4	15.3	38.3
Pigs	0.9	724.7	805.2
of which: Sows	0.2	54.0	270.0
Sheep	12.7	1072.8	84.5
of which: Ewes	12.5	901.2	72.1
Goats	5.1	175.0	34.3
of which: She-goats	5.0	145.3	29.1

¹ Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

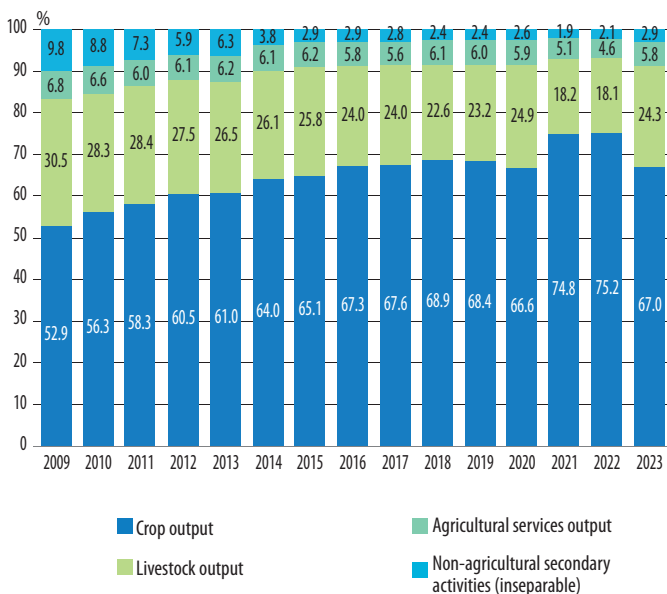
Economic accounts for agriculture

The Economic accounts for Agriculture (NSI data) are satellites to the National Accounts.

Output of agriculture represents all goods and services produced over the accounting period by all the units, irrespective of whether their agricultural activity is main or secondary, including households. Data refer to the final production, excluding internal turnover (goods and services produced and consumed for own during the accounting period). From 2007 onwards the information includes both subsidies from the national budget and EU budget.

The main purpose of the elaboration of the economic accounts is the calculation of the entrepreneurial income characterizing the state and development tendencies of agriculture.

Figure 4. Structure of final output in agriculture at current prices





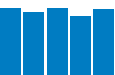
6. Economic accounts for agriculture-final output at current prices

Indicators	(Million BGN)			
	2020	2021	2022	2023 ¹
Cereals	2608.5	4429.3	5485.4	4081.5
Industrial crops	1667.0	2578.2	2971.0	1781.3
Fodder	131.2	172.1	205.5	226.8
Vegetables	373.8	405.4	512.5	567.8
Potatoes	73.1	84.4	97.7	70.9
Fruits	343.5	361.2	386.4	390.9
Wine	.	.	.	.
Other crop products	40.9	34.4	41.3	50.7
Crop output	5238.0	8065.0	9699.8	7169.9
Livestock	988.2	966.1	1151.0	1399.9
Livestock products	973.8	996.5	1182.6	1199.4
Livestock output	1962.0	1962.6	2333.6	2599.3
Agricultural goods output	7200.0	10027.6	12033.4	9769.2
Agricultural services output	462.0	546.3	595.3	617.9
Agricultural output	7662.0	10573.9	12628.7	10387.1
Non-agricultural secondary activities (inseparable)	204.1	202.3	273.2	313.3
Output of agricultural activities	7866.1	10776.2	12901.9	10700.4
Total intermediate consumption	4446.6	5612.8	6988.7	6449.6
Gross value added at basic price	3419.5	5163.4	5913.2	4250.8
Fixed capital consumption	923.8	981.7	1124.4	1084.0
Net value added at basic prices	2495.7	4181.7	4788.8	3166.8
Factor income	4774.1	6109.9	7183.6	5398.4
Net operating surplus/mixed income	3666.2	4935.5	5790.4	3694.0
Net entrepreneurial income	2413.9	3260.8	3239.2	1199.4

¹ The data for 2023 are forecast.

XXIII. ENVIRONMENT





Environmental statistics provide information on the state and changes in environmental conditions and the impact of human activities on it, as well as information on social actions and economic measures taken by society to avoid or mitigate these impacts and to restore and maintain capacity of the environment.

Environmental accounts are a statistical system that combines economic and environmental information into a common framework for measuring the contribution of the environment to the economy and the impact of the economy on the environment. They organize environmental data from many areas using the same concepts and terminology as national accounts. In this sense, they are satellite accounts to national accounts, through which various aspects of the economy can be analyzed and evaluated.

Emissions of pollutants in the air

Emission is the release of harmful substances (pollutants) into the atmosphere (air emission). Air emissions are a direct result of the economic activity in the country. The amount of the emitted harmful substances depends both on the quantities of consumed fuels and produced output, and the level of technology used.

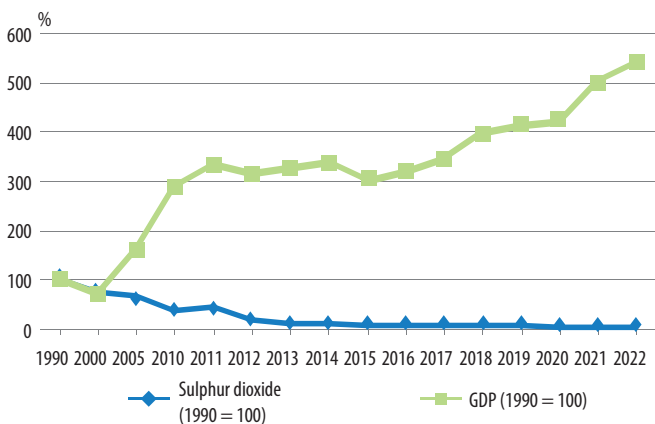
Air emissions are calculated based on data from a specialized statistical survey of the National Statistical Institute (NSI) and information from the Executive Environmental Agency (ExEA) at the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW). Emissions are estimated using a calculation method based on the following parameters: fuels consumed, sulphur content, calorific value, quantity of produced output and input of raw materials as well as emission factors applicable for the respective pollutants.

The most common characteristic of the relation economy - environment is contained in the indicator 'Emission per unit of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)'. Relative to output GDP, emissions characterize its resource intensity (energy intensity) and structure. High energy consumption per unit of GDP is accompanied by high emissions per unit of GDP and vice versa.

The following figure shows the trend of sulfur dioxide emissions and the trend of GDP (in dollars at current prices).



Figure 1. Emissions of Sulfur dioxide and GDP

1. Emissions of pollutants in the air^{1,2}

	(Thousand tons)							
	Sulphur oxides	Nitrogen oxides	Non-methane volatile organic compounds	Methane	Carbon oxide	Carbon dioxide	Dinitrogen oxide	Ammonia oxides
2020								
Total	67	83	82	229	262	36534	16	42
Industrial heating processes	30	20	1	3	12	22480	1	0
Industrial processes	33	4	32	37	16	4107	0	1
Other sources ³	4	60	49	189	234	9946	15	40
2021								
Total	55	95	88	234	275	42282	16	43
Industrial heating processes	45	32	2	3	19	27310	1	0
Industrial processes	5	2	39	42	17	4258	0	2
Other sources ³	6	61	48	189	239	10713	15	41
2022								
Total	73	96	76	234	200	46994	16	61
Industrial heating processes	60	31	2	4	11	31687	1	0
Industrial processes	11	6	39	48	20	4622	0	1
Other sources ³	2	59	35	183	170	10685	15	59

¹ Because of rounding some totals exceed or are less than the sums of their components.² Emissions are calculated in accordance with the latest edition of EMEP/EEA Guidebook 2019.³ Data on emissions from road transport, agriculture and households are included.

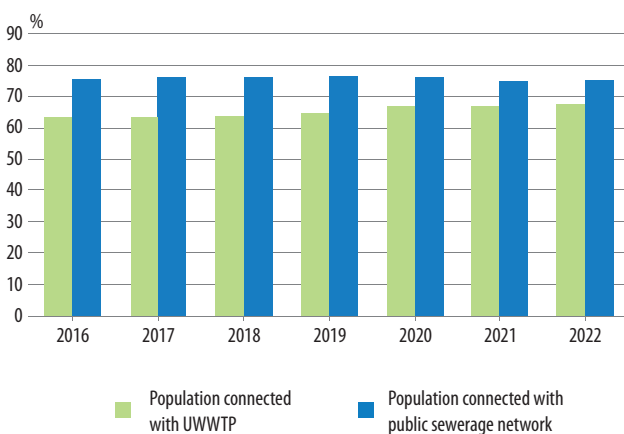
Water

Water statistics gives information for different parts of the water cycle in quantitative terms (water abstraction, water use, wastewater), water infrastructure, treatment plants for drinking water, urban wastewater treatment plants (UWWTP). The scope of water statistics includes companies providing supply and sewage water services (PWS, operators of UWWTP and irrigation systems) and water users.

The data are based on annual statistical surveys: 'Water supply, sewage and treatment' and 'Water supply through irrigation systems' (exhaustive) and 'Water use' (business entities using over 36 thousand cubic meters of water/year and over 20 thousand cubic meters of water/year for irrigation of agricultural areas, livestock and industrial purposes (including cooling). The water abstraction by households is not covered. The presented results are calculated on the basis of the reported statistical data, proportions and estimates. The methodology also uses principles from the Data Collection Manual for the OECD/Eurostat Joint Questionnaire 'Inland water'.

The share of the population with wastewater collection and treatment services provides an overview of infrastructure development and environmental protection.

Figure 2. Basic indicators for population and water services



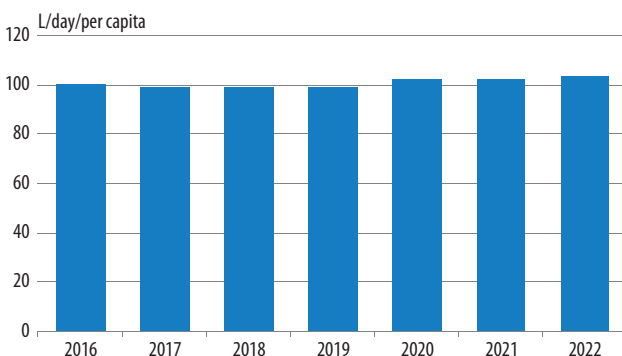


2. Water abstraction, water use, wastewater

	(Million m ³ /year)				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*
Gross fresh water abstraction	5425	5421	5077	5294	5361
Fresh surface water	4859	4860	4515	4755	4847
of which: From artificial reservoirs	2090	2010	1686	1947	2104
Fresh groundwater	566	562	561	539	515
Gross non-fresh water abstraction	10	4	36	151	18
Water use by economic activity - total	4647	4579	4310	4586	4528
Agriculture, hunting and forestry (incl. fishing)	312	327	335	339	333
of which: Irrigation	258	267	274	283	270
Industry	3995	3928	3650	3924	3877
of which: For cooling in energy production	3627	3552	3322	3587	3542
Services	87	73	66	66	67
Households	253	251	257	256	251
Wastewater discharged into water bodies - total	772	715	713	720	725
of which: From WWTPs (urban and other)	587	533	532	535	534
Cooling water discharged into water bodies	3613	3480	3259	3556	3440

Water is key to normal human functioning. Figure 3 presents the amount of water (average per person per day) delivered from the public water supply to households. Water supplied by the public to other consumers, total water losses (including illegal use-theft of water) and water supplied for technological and fire-fighting purposes is not included.

Figure 3. Drinking water used by households from Public water supply, average per capita





Waste

Waste statistics cover waste from economic activity and household waste. Waste from economic activity is the waste generated as a result of all economic activities in the country.

Most waste in Bulgaria was generated in 2019 - 109 654 456 tons. Over the years, the ratio between hazardous and non-hazardous waste is preserved - 15% and 85% of the total amount of waste generated in the country, respectively.

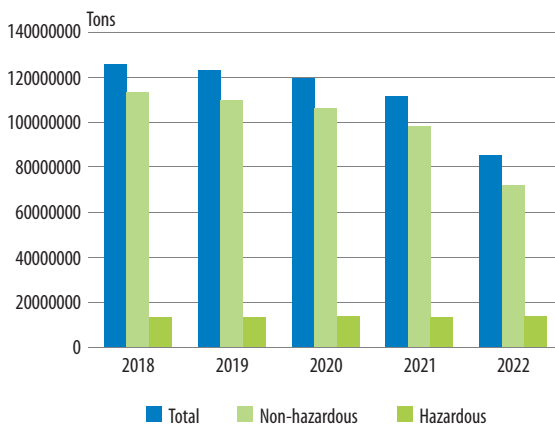


3. Generated waste from economic activities by industry and type

(Tons)

	2019	2020	2021	2022*
Non-hazardous waste - total	109654456	99592763	73513919	71905133
Agriculture, hunting and forestry. Fishing and aquaculture	905486	888101	1298350	718907
Mining and quarrying	93378455	81676822	52231900	54216985
Manufacturing	3775959	4453972	6160442	3992913
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	8401654	6067154	8031288	10079917
Water collection, treatment and supply. Sewerage.				
Remediation activities and other waste management services	1570361	3366001	3419821	1543869
Water collection, treatment and supply	229137	245944	306661	301515
Sewerage	53	4498	155	79
Waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery	1159292	2898370	3048025	1180299
Remediation activities and other waste management services	181879	217188	64981	61977
Construction	406890	1795813	897688	749324
Services (excl. wholesale of waste and scrap)	1215650	1344900	1474430	602848
Hazardous waste - total	13493848	13866148	13714032	13768269
Agriculture, hunting and forestry. Fishing and aquaculture	4923	4663	12089	1226
Mining and quarrying	13119359	13294166	13263569	13422089
Manufacturing	317471	466684	379154	312906
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	2045	23214	2960	1709
Water collection, treatment and supply. Sewerage.				
Remediation activities and other waste management services	12616	13680	14933	11926
Water collection, treatment and supply	180	140	206	151
Sewerage	-	-	-	-
Waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery	12197	13337	11986	9536
Remediation activities and other waste management services	240	203	2741	2239
Construction	998	20488	12557	3973
Services (excl. wholesale of waste and scrap)	36436	43252	28770	14439

Figure 4. Generated industrial and hazardous waste by type - total^{1,2}



¹ According to the waste list in Regulation (EC) No. 2150/2002 on waste statistics.

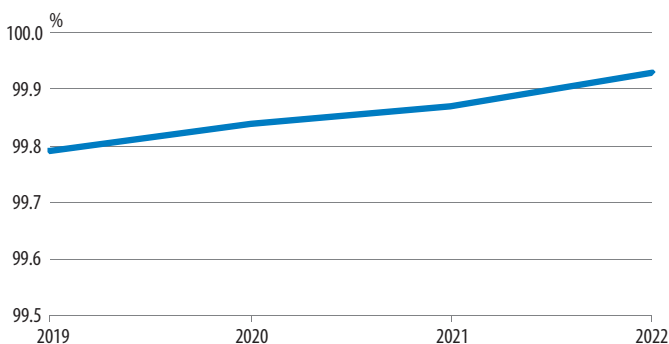
² Source of data: Executive Environmental Agency at the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW). Survey is based on the 'List of Waste' (MOEW - Ordinance No. 2 of 27 July 2014).



Municipal is the waste that results from the vital activity of people in homes, administrative, social and public buildings. The waste from commercial sites and accompanying craft activities, sites for recreation and entertainment, when it is not hazardous waste and at the same time its quantity or composition does not interfere with its treatment together with household waste, is equated to municipal waste. The information about the waste is provided through specialized statistical surveys of the NSI and administrative data from the Executive Agency for Environment, including estimation.

The share of the served population of the municipal waste collection system continues to increase, reaching 99.93% in 2022 (compared to 99.87% in 2021). The tendency to serve almost all settlements, except for some hard-to-reach settlements, is permanently preserved.

Figure 5. Share of population served by systems for organized waste collection



‘Generated municipal waste’ is a summary indicator that is calculated as the sum of the quantities of municipal waste: 1) collected through organized waste collection systems, 2) collected through other systems than those with organized waste collection (mostly recyclable materials, such as metal, paper, plastic and others, which are collected at specialized sites and subsequently sent directly for recycling), and 3) statistical assessment of the generated waste from the not covered population by organized waste collection systems. The quantity of generated municipal waste from 2019 to 2022 has a tendency to increase, and in 2022 it reaches 3 157 thousand tons.

4. Municipal waste^{1,2}

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total generated municipal wastes - thousand tons	2838	2829	3058	3157
Delivered for landfilling municipal waste - thousand tons	849	814	777	741
Delivered for preliminary treatment - thousand tons	1788	1865	1960	2023
Delivered for recycling municipal waste - thousand tons	184	144	302	375
Generated municipal wastes per capita - kg/year/per capita	407	408	445	475
Served settlements - number	4723	4727	4754	4778
Share of population served by municipal waste collection systems - %	99.8	99.8	99.9	99.9
Landfill sites and installation for treatment of municipal waste - number	69	73	73	71

¹ There are no data available on the treated waste of Kyustendil municipality for 2019, 2020 and 2021.

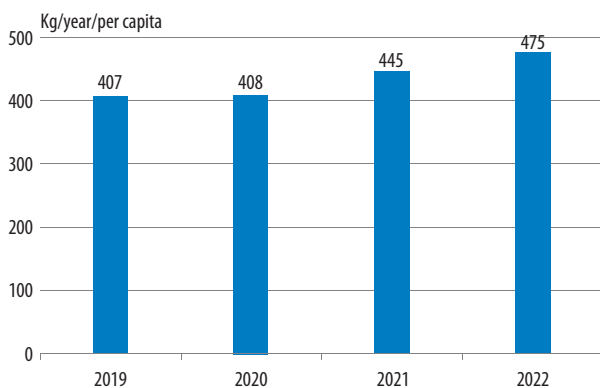
² Data to 15.02.2023.



The rate of accumulation of municipal waste or generated municipal waste per capita is the ratio between the amount of generated municipal waste and the average number of the population for the year. It shows the pressure on the environment.

The amount of waste generated per capita each year in the period 2019 - 2022 increases to 475 kg average per capita in 2022.

Figure 6. Collected municipal waste per capita of served population



Environmental protection expenditure accounts

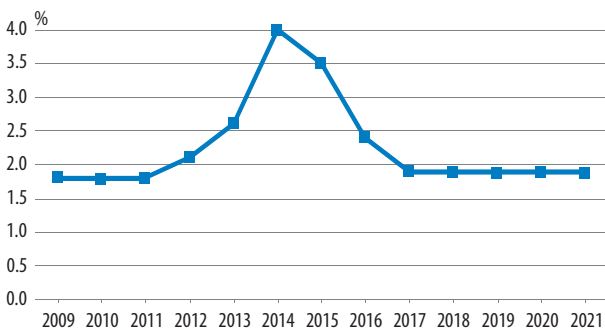
Statistics on environmental protection and restoration expenditures quantify the resources distributed to environmental protection by local economic units. They include all activities and actions whose main purpose is to prevent, reduce, and remove pollution and any other deterioration and loss of environmental quality. The environmental expenditures are carried out in the following directions: wastewater discharge and treatment, air protection, forests, soils, biodiversity, collection, treatment and disposal of waste and others.

The source of data on environmental protection and restoration expenditures is a statistical survey. The set of statistical surveys combines two approaches - comprehensive and sample observation.

The survey is comprehensive for statistical units previously known to have incurred environmental expenditure. The rest of the statistical population is covered by a random sample, representative at a national level by a group of economic activities according to the number of employed (over 10 employees). The random sample is processed and supplemented based on an assessment to ensure representation at a national level and quality.

The share of environmental expenditures from the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the main measure for steps taken by society and the state to reduce environmental pressure. For example, in 2021, the share of environmental expenditure of GDP was 1.9%.

Figure 7. Expenditure of protection and restoration of environment (% of GDP)



¹ According to the National Statistical Program the data for 2022 will be published on the NSI website on 20th of December 2024.



5. Expenditure on protection and restoration of the environment

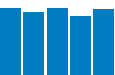
	2018	2019	2020 ¹	2021	2022 ²
Total - million BGN	2037	2308	2471	2643	.
On acquisition of tangible and intangible fixed assets - million BGN	499	455	658	704	.
On maintenance of tangible fixed assets - million BGN	1538	1853	1813	1939	.
Share of environmental expenditure in GDP - %	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	.

6. Expenditure on protection and restoration of the environment by use¹

Use	(Thousand BGN)	
	2021	2022 ²
Total	2643134	.
Wastewater	411801	.
Circulating water supply	77482	.
Air	462742	.
Protection and restoration of soil, groundwater and surface water	21714	.
Forests	4879	.
Protection of biodiversity and natural scenery	6490	.
Hunting and fishing projects	535	.
Waste	1524813	.
Noise	1328	.
Scientific and research activity	2357	.
Educational and other activity	25	.
Administrative activity	78188	.
Monitoring and control equipment	50140	.
Environmentant impact assessment	640	.

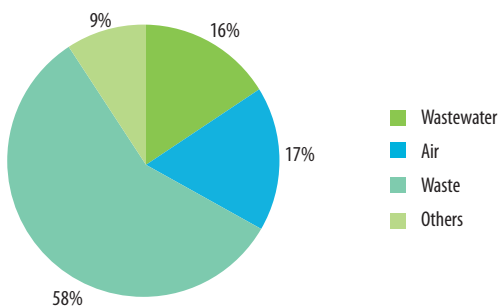
¹ Revised data.

² According to the National Statistical Program the data for 2022 will be published on the NSI website on 20th of December 2024.



Waste recovery and disposal has the largest share of the total environmental expenditures (58%), followed by the protection of air (17%) and wastewater treatment (16%). For other environmental domains - noise abatement, conservation of biodiversity, protected areas and sites and others, the share is 9%.

Figure 8. Structure of expenditure on protection and restoration of the environment by ecological use in 2021





Tangible fixed assets with ecological use

Tangible fixed assets (TFA) with ecological use include facilities, installations and equipment necessary for protection and restoration of the environment in areas (for wastewater, air, land, waste disposal, protection of biodiversity, noise protection), and monitoring and control equipment. They do not include equipment to protect the air purity and reduce noise and vibration in the workplace, i.e., labor protection activities. The statistics provide information on the availability and movement of tangible fixed assets for environmental purposes.

Data on tangible fixed assets with ecological use are collected through a comprehensive statistical survey. The methodology is in line with the latest requirements of the European institutions - Eurostat (EU Statistical Office) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Data on available tangible fixed assets are published at book value and are part of the total tangible fixed assets in the country.

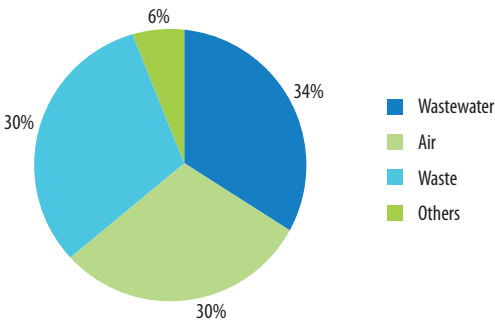
At the end of 2022, the total value of the TFA with ecological use amounted to 11 092 million BGN and is distributed by the main environmental domains as follows: for wastewater treatment (industrial and urban wastewater treatment plants, sewerage network, etc.) - 34.0%, followed by the facilities for air protection - 30.0%, for waste treatment - 30.0%, and others - 6.0%. There is no significant change in the relative share of assets distributed by environmental domains compared to previous years.

7. Tangible fixed assets with ecological use¹

Use	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total - thousand BGN	9523596	9889758	10468033	10873312	11092112
Wastewater	3298021	3429842	3672458	3693672	4050841
of which: Wastewater treatment plants	1540404	1659824	1680922	1928052	1517890
Circulating water supply	256955	258041	279092	248635	240540
Air	2888790	2971711	3118719	3256571	2976066
Protection and remediation of soil, groundwater and surface water	119945	124998	130595	131381	147025
Protection of biodiversity and natural scenery	46308	45136	49336	50106	52624
Hunting and fishing projects	3854	5435	4532	4334	4977
Recovery and disposal of waste	2706583	2852272	2991424	3267601	3381507
Noise	5030	2267	2260	5343	11567
Monitoring and control equipment	198110	200056	219617	215669	226965

¹ Accounting value at the end of the year.

Figure 9. Tangible fixed assets with ecological use as of 31.12.2022





Environmental goods and services

The environmental goods and services sector includes all economic operators carrying out activities leading to environmental protection and resource management (called producers of environmental goods and services). Environmental protection includes all activities and actions whose main purpose is to prevent, reduce and eliminate its pollution and deterioration. Resource management includes the conservation, maintenance and improvement of natural resources, and as a result, their prevention from depletion. Producers of environmental goods and services may or may not specialize in their production, may produce them as a result of primary or secondary activities, or may produce them for their own use.

Data on environmental goods and services are collected through a statistical survey. Statistical survey is a combination of comprehensive and sample observation, including estimations. The methodology is based on the 2016 Handbook of Environmental Goods and Services. The environmental goods and services sector provides data on output, value added, exports and employment, according to the Regulation (EU) No. 691/2011 on European environmental economic accounts and the System of Environmental Economic Accounting 2012-Central Framework - SEEA CF.

In 2021, the total value of the produced environmental goods and services amounted to 8 505 million BGN, which is 16.6% more compared to 2020 (7 296 million BGN).

8. Environmental goods and services

Economic activity	Output - Mln. BGN	Gross value added - Mln. BGN	Employment - Number
2018			
Total	4828	2082	50115
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	280	131	5609
Mining and quarrying; Manufacturing	1021	204	5889
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	2516	1492	24603
Construction	164	67	2038
Services	847	188	11976
2019 ¹			
Total	6334	2676	63108
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	528	213	9252
Mining and quarrying; Manufacturing	1686	425	9905
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	2695	1583	24503
Construction	388	129	4421
Services	1036	325	15027
2020			
Total	7296	3014	65559
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	587	250	8780
Mining and quarrying; Manufacturing	1908	502	11121
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	2450	1480	23115
Construction	1110	399	7185
Services	1241	384	15361
2021			
Total	8505	3286	68540
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	614	226	8306
Mining and quarrying; Manufacturing	2511	488	12575
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	3018	1775	25617
Construction	816	237	7973
Services	1547	560	14068
2022 ²			
Total	.	.	.
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	.	.	.
Mining and quarrying; Manufacturing	.	.	.
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	.	.	.
Construction	.	.	.
Services	.	.	.

¹ From 2019 estimates are included in the data.

² According to the National Statistical Program, the data for 2022 will be published on the NSI website on 31st of October 2024.

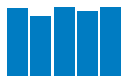
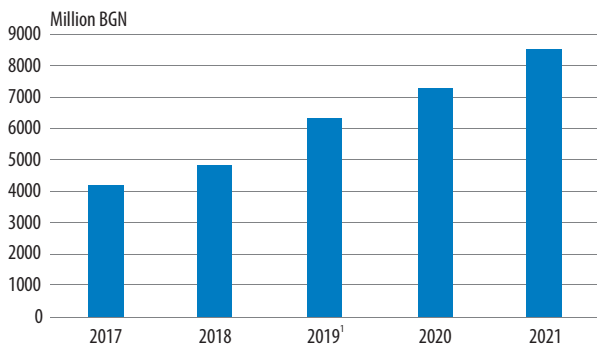
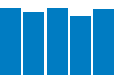


Figure 10. Output in the environment goods and services sector



¹ From 2019 estimates are included in the data.



Packages placed on the market

Package is all products made of material of any nature, used to place, store, transport, deliver and present goods - from raw materials to processed goods - from the manufacturer to the user or the consumer. Items that are 'non-returnable' and used for the same purposes are also considered packaging. Data on packages placed on the market, used for packaging of sold products, are collected through a statistical survey of economic entities that produce and import packaged goods; carry out packaging of goods for remuneration; package goods for own sale; produce disposable packaging and utensils.

The statistical survey is comprehensive. It is consistent with the need for a complete statistical estimation of the phenomenon.

In the last 3 years there has been a decreasing trend in the paper and plastic packages (with 2% for the last reported 2022, compared to 2021). For the other types of packages there was an increasing trend, the biggest increase in 2022 was registered in the glass packages - by 11%, in comparison to 2021.

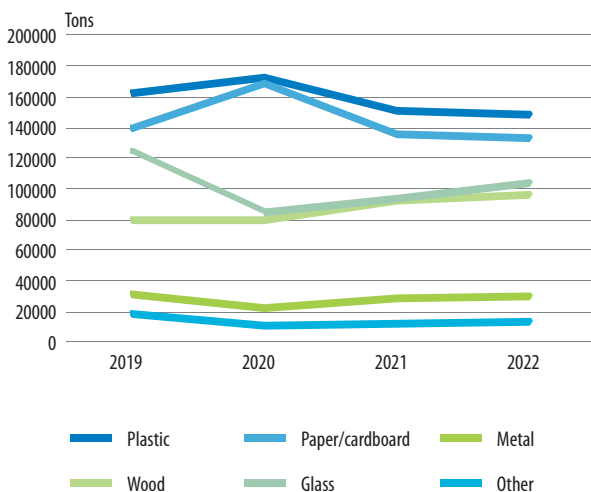


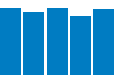
9. Placed on the market packaging by materials

(Tons)

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	554489	537692	513102	523187
Plastic	162921	173072	151277	148367
Paper/cardboard	138797	168331	136098	133242
Metal	31233	22133	28267	29313
Wood	79649	79248	91635	95687
Glass	124017	84481	93879	103874
Other	17873	10426	11945	12703

Figure 11. Placed on the market packaging





Underground reserves

Underground reserves are the reserves and resources of underground natural resources, which are mineral deposits in the earth's interior or on the earth's surface with a certain geological study and economic interest. The reserves are the part of the mineral resources that are expected to be extracted for commercial purposes with a certain degree of security. The reserves of the underground natural resources are grouped in the following classification categories: (1) proven reserves - those for which with a high degree of certainty (90 and over 90%) the technical possibility for extraction and its economic profitability with the existing technology and the corresponding prices, and (2) probable reserves - those that have not yet been proven, but for which there is more than a 50% probability of a technically feasible and economically viable yield.

Data on underground reserves are obtained on the basis of a comprehensive statistical survey. It is consistent with the need for a complete statistical estimation of the phenomenon.

The area of underground reserves in 2022 increased by 22% compared to 2018.

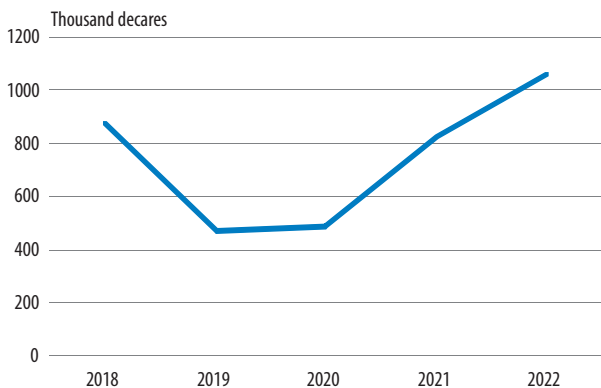


10. Area of deposits of ores and minerals

(Thousand decares)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total for the country	870	468	487	824	1059

Figure 12. Area of underground reserves - total for the country



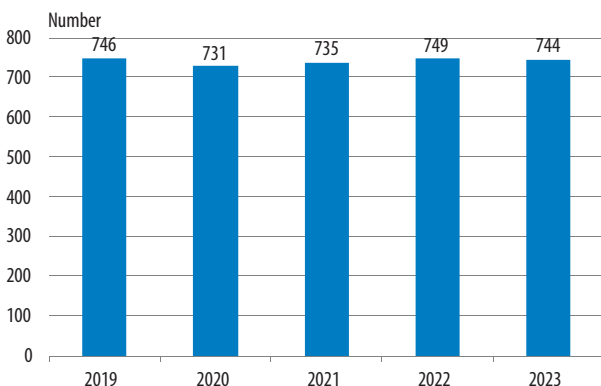
Registered noise levels

Noise is one of the main factors with adverse effects on the population, present as unwanted or harmful external sound caused by human activity, including emitted by road, rail and air transport, from industrial installations and facilities and from local sources. Noise levels are observed in different terrains and development zones in the urbanized territories and outside them. A special noise indicator is used for areas subject to aviation noise.

Data on noise levels are based on comprehensive survey, covering all noise registration points in the country. The source of the data is the National Center for Public Health and Analysis. The statistical survey is comprehensive and is conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Noise Monitoring System.

In 2023, 744 points for measuring the noise level were observed, distributed in 36 settlements, and in 518 points levels above the permissible norms were measured.

Figure 13. [Surveyed points of noise registration](#)





11. Surveyed points of noise registration by district in 2023

(Number)

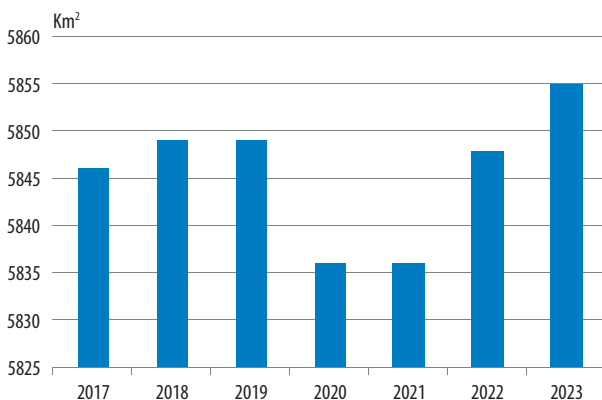
Districts	Total	Of which: over permissible limits	By registered noise level in decibels						
			Under 58	58 - 62	63 - 67	68 - 72	73 - 77	78 - 82	Over 82
Total	744	518	169	129	281	135	29	1	-
Blagoevgrad	17	3	17	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burgas	37	26	7	3	7	13	7	-	-
Varna	45	18	26	4	8	7	-	-	-
Veliko Tarnovo	48	33	1	13	26	8	-	-	-
Vidin	15	13	4	1	8	2	-	-	-
Vratsa	15	11	6	5	3	1	-	-	-
Gabrovo	20	16	2	-	12	6	-	-	-
Dobrich	15	11	4	1	8	2	-	-	-
Kardzhali	15	12	5	-	2	7	1	-	-
Kyustendil	36	33	5	4	25	1	1	-	-
Lovech	15	12	4	9	2	-	-	-	-
Montana	15	13	-	-	12	3	-	-	-
Pazardzhik	15	11	-	4	7	4	-	-	-
Pernik	24	17	-	6	11	7	-	-	-
Pleven	21	18	5	5	6	1	3	1	-
Plovdiv	44	36	-	4	9	28	3	-	-
Razgrad	15	14	3	6	5	1	-	-	-
Ruse	30	21	2	3	15	9	1	-	-
Silistra	15	13	-	1	14	-	-	-	-
Sliven	20	11	6	5	8	1	-	-	-
Smolyan	10	4	5	1	3	1	-	-	-
Sofia	75	52	24	11	16	17	7	-	-
Sofia (stolitsa)	35	21	3	12	20	-	-	-	-
Stara Zagora	45	33	5	12	14	8	6	-	-
Targovishte	51	26	24	9	16	2	-	-	-
Haskovo	20	16	2	5	11	2	-	-	-
Shumen	15	11	5	1	7	2	-	-	-
Yambol	16	13	4	4	6	2	-	-	-

Protected natural scenery

Protected areas in Bulgaria is a generalized concept covering all parks, reserves, landmarks and protected areas. They are designed to protect the biological diversity of ecosystems and the natural processes taking place in them, as well as characteristic or remarkable objects of inanimate nature. Data on the number and area of protected areas and sites by species (reserves, natural landmarks, protected areas, national parks, nature parks and maintained reserves), as well as the number of protected plants, animals and centuries-old trees are provided by statistical survey with administrative data from the Ministry of Environment and Water. The scope of the study includes all protected areas and sites in the country. The statistical survey is comprehensive and is conducted in accordance with the Protected Areas Act and the Biodiversity Act.

In 2023, six protected areas and three natural landmarks with a total area of 863 hectares have been newly declared.

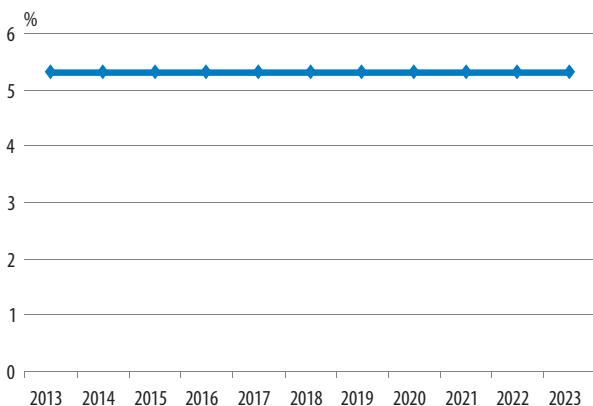
Figure 14. Area of protected natural scenery

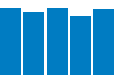




The share of protected areas and sites for the country remains at 5.3% for 2023.

Figure 15. Share of protected areas in the total country's territory





12. Protected natural scenery in 2023¹

	In numbers			Area ² - ha		
	As of 31.12.2023	Included in 2023	Excluded in 2023	As of 31.12.2023	Included in 2023	Excluded in 2023
Protected natural areas	1039	14	-	584836.4	1214.7	4.2
Reserves	55	-	-	77223.8	19.6	-
Natural landmarks	352	5	-	18106.8	86.1	1.4
Protected areas	583	9	-	77724.4	1107.9	2.8
National parks	3	-	-	150798.7	-	-
Natural parks	11	-	-	256441.4	-	-
Maintained reserves	35	-	-	4541.3	1.1	-
Protected plant species	574	-	-	x	x	x
Protected animal species	483	-	-	x	x	x
Protected venerable trees	1390	36	7	x	x	x

¹ Source: Ministry of Environment and Water.

² Because of rounding some totals do not exceed or are less than the sums of their components.

13. Protected natural areas¹

Year	Area - ha	Share of protected areas as % to the total country's territory
2018	584862	5.3
2019	584922	5.3
2020	583582	5.3
2021	583626	5.3
2022	584836	5.3
2023	585500	5.3

¹ Source: Ministry of Environment and Water.

XXIV. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY AND INNOVATION ACTIVITY





Research and development activity (R&D)

Research and development activity (R&D) comprises creative and systematic work undertaken in order to increase the stock of knowledge - including knowledge of humankind, culture and society - and to devise new applications of available knowledge. R&D activity covers basic research, applied research and experimental development.

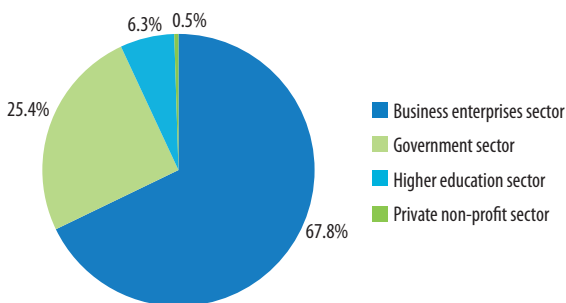
Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) comprises current costs and capital expenditure.

R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP is an internationally comparable measure of the intensity of R&D.

R&D personnel comprise two categories - researchers and other R&D personnel. The personnel employed on R&D is measured both in full-time equivalent (FTE) on R&D and in headcounts. Personnel in FTE are calculated on the basis of working time spent on R&D activity during the reference year.

GERD and R&D personnel are distributed in four institutional sectors: business enterprises sector, government sector, higher education sector and private non-profit sector.

Figure 1. Structure of gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) by institutional sectors in 2022





1. Gross domestic expenditure on research and development activity (GERD) by type of costs

	2019	2020	2021	2022
GERD - thousand BGN	1002132	1023790	1074004	1265635
Current costs	902095	922112	996144	1179619
Capital expenditure	100037	101678	77860	86016
R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP - %	0.83	0.85	0.77	0.75

2. Personnel engaged in research and development activity (R&D) by category

Categories	2019	2020	2021	2022
	Headcount			
Total	34986	35087	34613	37056
Researchers	23171	23228	23234	24350
Other R&D personnel	11815	11859	11379	12706
	Full-time equivalent			
Total	26399	26085	25122	27090
Researchers	16940	16691	16230	17487
Other R&D personnel	9459	9394	8892	9603



Innovation activity

An innovation is a new or improved product (good or service) or business process that differs significantly from the enterprise's previous products or business processes and that has been implemented on the market or brought into use by the enterprise.

An innovation-active enterprise is an enterprise, which during the observation period is engaged in one or more activities to develop or implement new or improved products or business processes.

A product innovation is a new or improved good or service that differs significantly from the enterprise's previous goods or services and that has been implemented on the market. It includes significant changes to the design of the goods. Simple re-sale of new goods and changes of a solely aesthetic nature are excluded.

A business process innovation is a new or improved business process for one or more business functions that differs significantly from the enterprise's previous business processes and that has been implemented within the firm.



3. Innovation-active enterprises as a share of all enterprises in 2020¹

(Per cent)

Economic sectors	
Total	36.2
Industry	41.0
Mining and quarrying	20.9
Manufacturing	42.1
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	30.9
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	23.4
Services	31.5
Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	29.8
Transportation and storage	14.1
Information and communication	59.6
Financial and insurance activities	33.3
Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis	30.3
Scientific research and development	100.0
Advertising and market research	37.4

4. Enterprises that have new or significantly improved products new to the market as a share of all enterprises in 2020¹

(Per cent)

Economic sectors	
Total	11.8
Industry	13.1
Mining and quarrying	3.5
Manufacturing	13.8
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	3.3
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	2.0
Services	10.5
Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	9.6
Transportation and storage	2.4
Information and communication	26.2
Financial and insurance activities	8.1
Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis	7.3
Scientific research and development	41.2
Advertising and market research	9.4

¹ The data refer to enterprises with 10 or more persons employed and cover economic activities pointed in table.

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