



БЪЛГАРСКА ТЪРГОВСКО-ПРОМИШЛЕНА ПАЛАТА
BULGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

131 години надежден партньор
131 years reliable partner

BULGARIA IN FIGURES® 2026



17th
edition



BULGARIA
IN THE EUROZONE
01.01.2026

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The brochure has been compiled by courtesy of:

National Statistical Institute,
Bulgarian National Bank
and Ministry of Economy, Investments and Industry
of Bulgaria.

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The information in this brochure is current as of May/June 2026.

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**Dear business partners,**

The Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry present to your attention the "Bulgaria in Figures"® edition for the 17th consecutive time. As always, it reflects the view and assessment of third-party, independent rating organizations that have proved their objectivity regarding the overall economic environment in Bulgaria.

The essential step of adopting the euro as the national currency has had a positive effect on the assessments and rating of our country. However, they are at the same time quite

negatively affected by the deterioration both in the condition and in the prospects for development of the global and regional economies. Therefore, the investors' decision on a suitable choice of the places for investments will get significantly complicated.

The mission of the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) is not only to make interested parties aware of a predominantly unbiased analysis of the facts about our country's performance, but also to support the effective use of the advantages it offers.

After joining Schengen, the distance in time to our forthcoming acceptance into the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development is getting shorter, which will be a well-deserved appreciation of our efforts in this direction. There are huge financial challenges to all countries – from the biggest to the smallest ones – but with its latest elections, Bulgaria gave a serious signal for a long-term horizon for the governance of our country and at the same time – for the clear responsibility of those that will govern it.

The important conclusion from the last elections and the accompanying meetings is the prevailing intention to refrain from any changes of the financial system in the direction of increasing taxes, whose stability, over the past decades, allowed Bulgaria to achieve – in some years – a balanced budget and even a budget with a surplus – something unachievable for most countries around the world. Under the current conditions, this is not impossible but we all have to be ready and convinced that it will become possible with engaging the widest circle of experts and with a readiness to make compromises now in order to avoid enormous deprivations and restrictions in the near future.

In the current edition, we also present Bulgaria's places in 27 global rankings and we would like to draw your attention to some critical/negative indicators, on which we will focus our efforts again in order to make our country more attractive, of course, with an emphasis on reducing the administrative burden and achieving an irrefutable rule of law.

We will continue to be open for dialogue and consultations on the basis of our long experience for many years, our international contacts and established reputation.

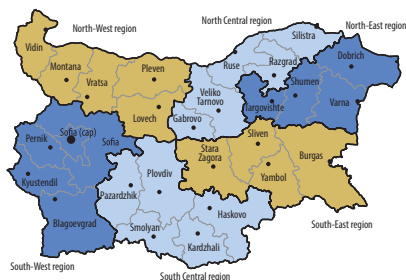
And finally, BCCI remains a reliable assistant to all investors in Bulgaria with its numerous services. We will continue to work on improving the economic environment in Bulgaria, on encouraging the trade and investment exchange and on stimulating investors to be active (bccibg.org/GuidelinesOnActivity), by organising bilateral and multilateral forums, training sessions and consultations (bccibg.org/consultation) with a view to providing up-to-date economic information (bccibg.org/subscribe) to companies so that they facilitate the implementation of their commercial and economic ideas and plans

Yours faithfully,

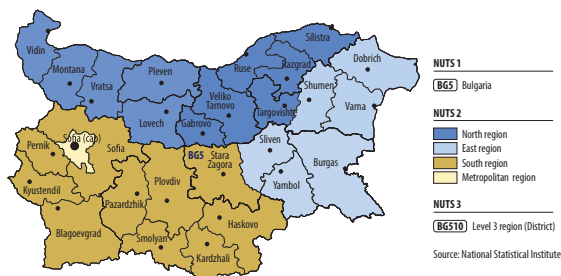
Tsvetan Simeonov

President of the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA



In order to keep the contents of *Bulgaria in Figures 2026* up to date, we present you not only with the current *Map of the Regions*, but also the Proposal of the Council of Ministers, whose March 2025 Decision laid down a new scope of the regions to be planned under NUTS-2 in the Republic of Bulgaria; As of February 16, 2026, the new version of the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS 2027) has entered into force, adopted by the European Commission via Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/195. The amendments will enter into force as from 1 January 2027. The Council of Ministers' Decision proposes to establish 4 regions for planning under NUTS-2 in place of the current 6 regions as follows:



General data

State government: Parliamentary Republic

Head of state: President

Head of government: Prime Minister

Capital: Sofia

Area: 110 996,76 sq.km

Administrative and territorial division: 28 districts and 265 municipalities, 6 regions

Population: 6 423 207 persons as of 31.12.2025

Official language: Bulgarian

Religion: Traditional religion in the Republic of Bulgaria is the Eastern Orthodox creed

National currency: EURO, Euro (1 EUR = 1,9583 BGN)

Facts about Bulgaria

- ▲ EU, NATO and WTO Membership
- ▲ Bulgaria is part of EUROZONE from 01.01.2026
- ▲ Benefits:
 - Economic growth and increased competitiveness
 - Reduced transaction costs and a more business-friendly environment
 - Improved international credit rating
 - Lower financing costs and mitigating foreign exchange risk
 - Increased liquidity and banking sector stability
- ▲ Strategic geographical location and openness to foreign markets: crossroad between Europe, Asia and Africa
- ▲ Stability of the financial environment: Bulgaria's gross public debt is the third lowest in the EU27 (28,4% of GDP) for the third quarter of 2025
- ▲ Business-friendly environment: Simple and low taxation
- ▲ Competitive operational costs and competitive labour level

Main indicators – actual data

Indicator/Unit of measure	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
GDP (market prices, mill. EUR)	71 344	86 078	94 525	104 767	116 018 (p)
Real GDP growth rate (%)	7,8	4,1	1,7	3,4	3,1 (p)
Inflation - Annual average CPI (%)	3,3	15,3	9,5	2,4	4,6
Government deficit/surplus (% of GDP)	-4,0	-2,9	-2,0	-3,0	-3,5
Export (mill. EUR)	34 988	47 508	44 433	44 324	43 023 p
Import (mill. EUR)	39 238	55 175	49 663	50 901	53 827 p
Employment rate (%)	68,5	70,6	70,7	70,9	70,9
Unemployment rate (%)	5,2	4,2	4,4	4,2	3,6

p-preliminary

Source: Eurostat, Bulgaria National Bank, National Statistical Institute, Ministry of Finance

Macroeconomic forecast

	2025	2026	2027
Gross Domestic Product (% change)	3,1	2,5	2,2
Employment growth (%)*	2,1	0,9	0,4
Unemployment rate (%)	3,5	3,7	3,9
Inflation (%) (HICP)	3,5	4,2	2,6
General government balance (% of GDP)	-3,5	-4,1	-4,3
General government gross debt (% of GDP)	29,9	32,3	35,5

Source: Spring 2026 Economic Forecast, European Commission

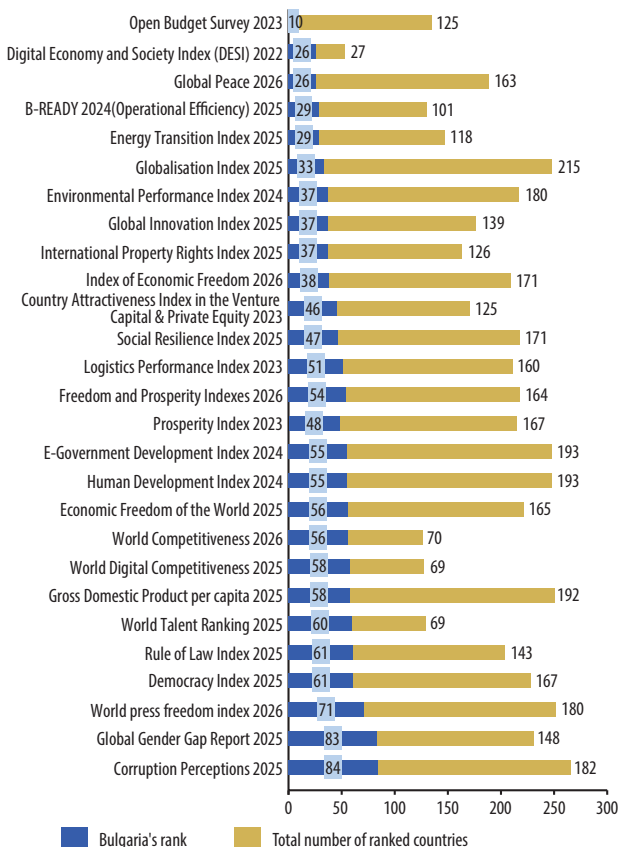
*Source for employment growth: Macroeconomic Forecast March 2026 BNB

BULGARIA IN THE INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

Bulgaria has competitive positions in numerous international indices. According to the following rankings the country has the best performance in Global Peace and Energy Transition Index. In 2025, Bulgaria improved its positions in several global rankings, including the Social Resilience Index, World competitiveness and Globalization Index. A serious decline was observed in Corruption Perceptions and Bulgaria ranks 56th out of 70 nations in the 2026 IMD Competitiveness Ranking, securing a steady one-spot climb. To unlock long-term growth, the country faces the constructive challenge of balancing political predictability, expanding the skilled labor pool, and broadening digital integration across all sectors.

For more information: [Bulgaria in the international rankings – as of 06/2026](#)

Bulgaria in international rankings



Source: Respective websites

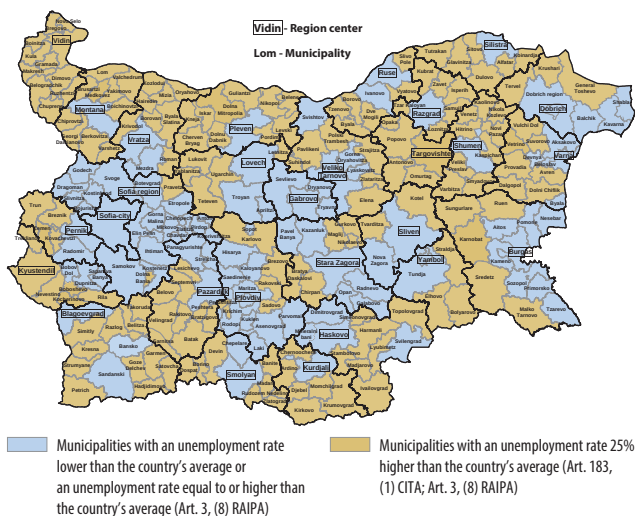
FOCUS ON TAXATION

Flat-tax system is introduced in Bulgaria - a single 10% rate applied on personal income and a 10% rate applied on corporate income (imposed respectively in 2008 and 2007). For more than 15 years Bulgaria has not changed the low rates of the direct taxes. Since 1999 the standard rate of value-added tax in Bulgaria has been set on 20%.

In connection with the settlement of the minimum effective taxation of multinational enterprise groups and of large national enterprise groups, from 01.01.2024 the surtax rate is the positive difference between 15 percent and the effective tax rate of the multinational or large national enterprise group for the jurisdiction.

In Bulgaria, taxpayers are exempted from paying corporation tax in regions with high unemployment rates. In 2025 about 57% of municipalities – 151 (of total 265 in Bulgaria) had 25% higher than the average rate of unemployment for the country and there is 0% corporate income tax.

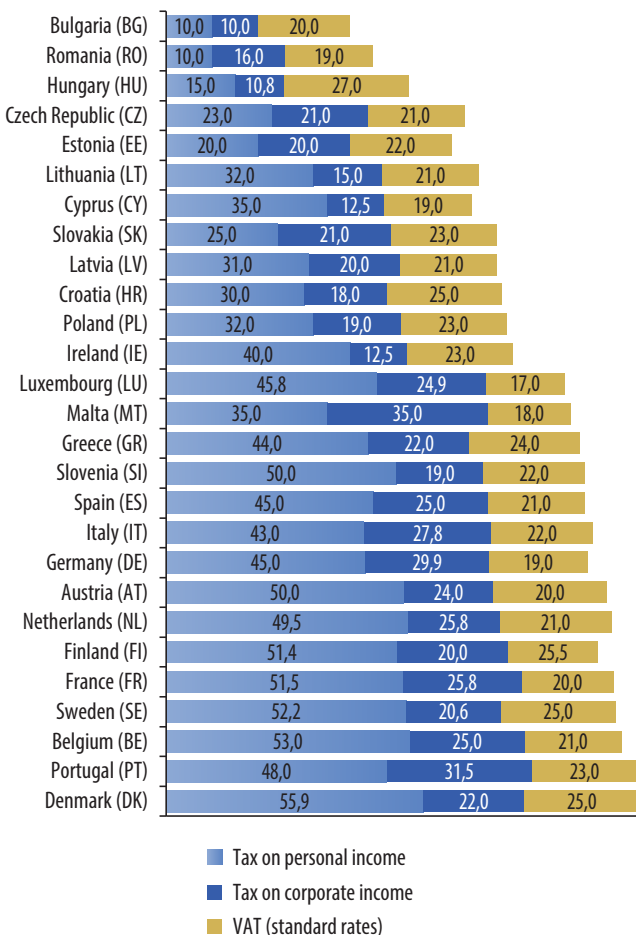
Unemployment by municipalities – 0% corporate tax in regions shown in gold



Source: Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Bulgaria

Bulgaria has the fourth lowest tax burden in the EU: The overall tax-to-GDP ratio in Bulgaria is 30,5%, compared to an EU average of 40,4%.

Top statutory income tax rates and standard VAT rates in the EU (2025), %



Source: European Commission, DG Taxation and Customs Union, Taxes in Europe database and IBFD data. ANNUAL REPORT ON TAXATION 2025 Review of taxation policies in EU Member States

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

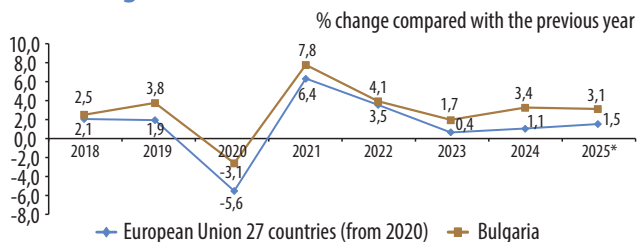
Bulgarian economy has been growing steadily in the recent years, showing higher rates than the EU average.

Bulgaria's GDP growth accelerated to 3,4% in 2024, driven robustly by domestic demand. In 2025, despite ongoing global economic challenges, military conflicts, and a broader slowdown in the European economy which hampered exports, the country maintained a strong growth momentum at 3,1%, supported by resilient private consumption and investment.

Although public investment is expected to remain robust in the coming years due to the continued use of EU funds, overall GDP growth is expected to ease due to an expected slowdown in wage growth and private consumption.

Real GDP growth is forecast to decelerate over the forecast horizon, mostly due to slowing growth of domestic demand. Private consumption growth is set to ease, reflecting weaker consumer confidence and lower wage growth. Public consumption is forecast to continue supporting GDP growth, which is forecast to be 2,5% and 2,2% in 2026 and 2027, respectively. The government deficit is set to exceed 4% of GDP in 2026 and 2027, driven by social spending and public sector wages.

Real GDP growth rate – volume

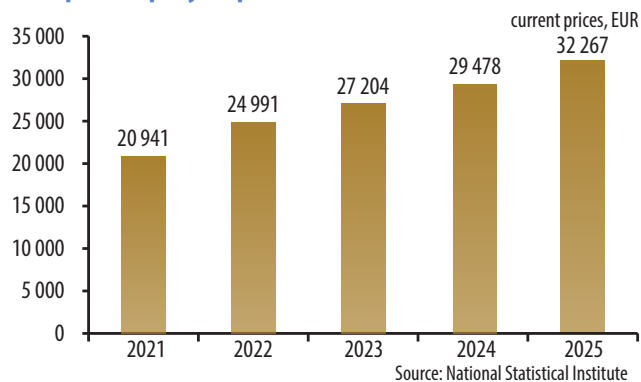


* Preliminary data

Source: Eurostat

Over the past two years, GDP per employee has remained relatively stable, from 8,4% in 2024 to 9,46% in 2025.

GDP per employed person



Gross Domestic Product and Gross Value Added by economic sectors and economic activity groupings at current year prices

Million EUR

Economic sectors and economic activity groupings	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3 088	3 195	2 384	2 142	2871
Mining, quarrying and manufacturing	12 327	18 877	17 793	19 267	19 342
Construction	2 477	2 904	3 666	4 056	5 266
Wholesale and retail trade	14 441	16 705	19 560	20 491	22 944
Information and communication	4 867	5 734	6 847	7 467	8 626
Financial and insurance activities	4 235	5 013	5 326	6 044	6 509
Real estate activities	5 620	6 231	7 178	7 312	8 311
Professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities	4 319	5 056	5 846	6 363	7 239
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security; education; human health and social work activities	10 021	11 608	13 387	15 688	17 982
Arts, entertainment and recreation, repair of household goods and other services	1 069	1 212	1 411	1 545	1 844
Gross Value Added	62 465	76 534	83 041	90 376	100 934
Adjustments (taxes less subsidies on products)	8 913	9 547	11 667	13 345	15 084
Gross Domestic Product	71 377	86 081	94 708	103 721	116 018

* Preliminary data

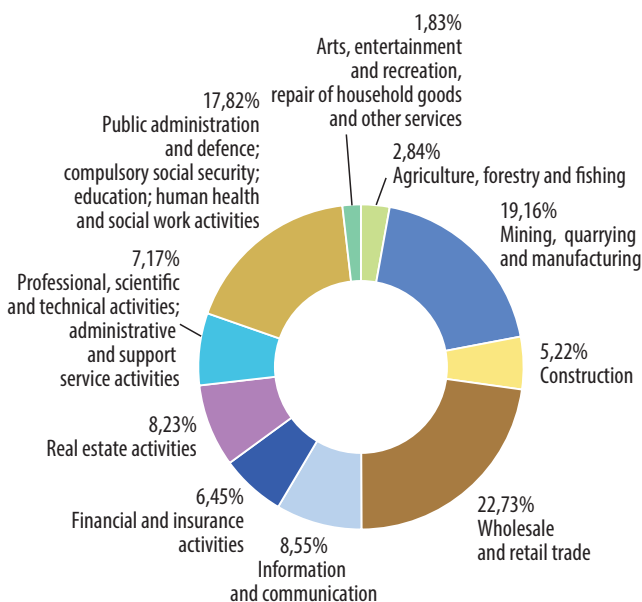
Source: National Statistical Institute
Gross Domestic Product - Production approach at current prices

The sectors with the most important role in the growth of gross value added in 2025 are Wholesale and retail trade (23%) and "Mining and manufacturing" (19% share).

The Industry sector created 24,4% of GVA of the national economy, which is an increase of 0,2 percentage points compared to 2024. In 2025 the Agricultural sector's relative share in the GVA of the national economy was 2,8%, which is an increase of 0,1 percentage points compared with 2024.

Structure of Gross Value Added by economic sectors and economic activity groupings in 2025

% Share



Source: National Statistical Institute,
Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

EXPORT

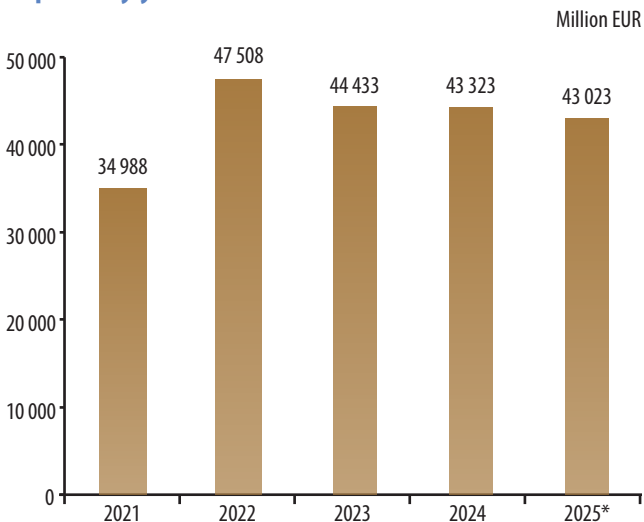
Following the export decline in 2024, 2025 also shows a downturn in exports – 43 billion euros and a decrease of almost -2,9%. Exports contracted in the first half of 2025 due to maintenance works by major domestic exporters, recovering only partially in the second half of the year. Exports are expected to recover in 2026, with major exporters operating closer to, albeit still below, full capacity.

In almost all commodity groups there are significant changes compared to 2024. The highest growth of all exported goods and materials for 2025 compared to the previous year's numbers was reported by tobacco (33,1%), followed by cement (26,9%) in 2025.

Bulgaria's top 10 export partners, which account for over 55% of the country's total export volume, are Germany, Romania, Turkey, Italy, Greece, etc.

Net exports had a negative contribution to GDP growth in 2025. This was mostly driven by a further decrease in exports compared with previous years, which is partly explained by one-off factors such as maintenance works carried out by two major exporters, as well as strong import growth related to aircraft deliveries. Looking at the trade balance by trade partner, exports to EU countries recorded a larger fall than those to non-EU countries. (2026 Country Report – Bulgaria Source: European Commission, 2026)

Exports by years



*Preliminary data

Source: Bulgarian National Bank

Exports by commodity groups

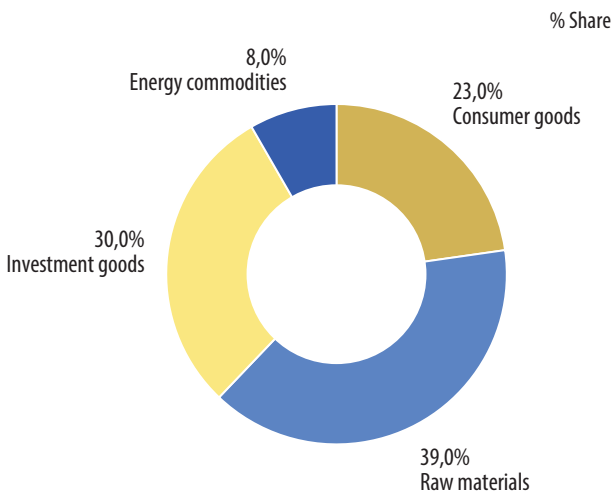
Million EUR

Years	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Consumer goods	8 471	10 797	10 236	9 256	9 784
Food	2 329	3 658	3 077	2 841	3 202
Tobacco	54	83	114	127	169
Beverages	159	143	156	151	150
Clothing and footwear	1 384	1 701	1 618	1410	1320
Medicines and cosmetics	1 289	1 425	1 636	1642	1807
Furniture and household appliances	1 609	1 648	1 453	1 446	1 421
Others	1 646	2 140	2 182	1 638	1 714
Raw materials	15 098	18 842	17 584	17 558	16 941
Iron and steel	977	1 102	897	787	688
Non-ferrous metals	3 215	4 177	3 496	4 432	3 836
Chemicals	542	777	678	754	696
Plastics and rubber	1 475	1 757	1 668	1 703	1 580
Fertilizers	298	639	388	372	437
Textiles	572	712	664	553	536
Raw materials for the food industry	2 989	3 729	3 905	3 002	3 099
Wood products, paper and paperboard	675	855	659	663	564
Cement	31	27	26	26	33
Raw tobacco	111	109	117	105	128
Others	4 213	4 959	5 087	5 161	5 344
Investment goods	8 431	11 146	12 445	12 782	12 719
Machines and equipment	2 086	2 702	2 759	2 570	2 472
Electrical machines	1 479	1 808	2 057	2 123	2 088
Vehicles	638	730	823	905	1077
Spare parts and equipment	2 014	2 445	2 760	2 575	2 647
Others	2 216	3 461	4 046	4 608	4 436
Total non energy commodities	32 000	40 785	40 266	39 596	39 444
Energy commodities	2 890	6 723	4167	4728	3580
Petroleum products	1 121	3 983	2 620	2684	1451
Others	1 768	2 740	1 547	2 044	2 129
Other Exports	99	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPORTS /FOB/	34 988	47 508	44 433	44 324	43 023

*Preliminary data

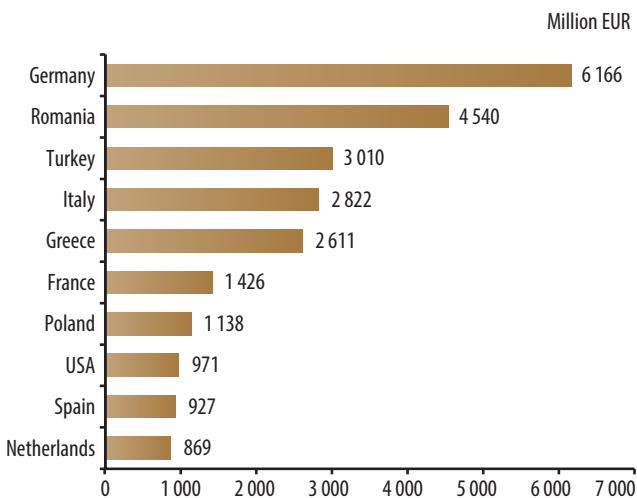
Source: Bulgarian National Bank

Structure of exports by commodity groups in 2025



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

Exports to the TOP 10 Bulgarian trade partner countries in 2025



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

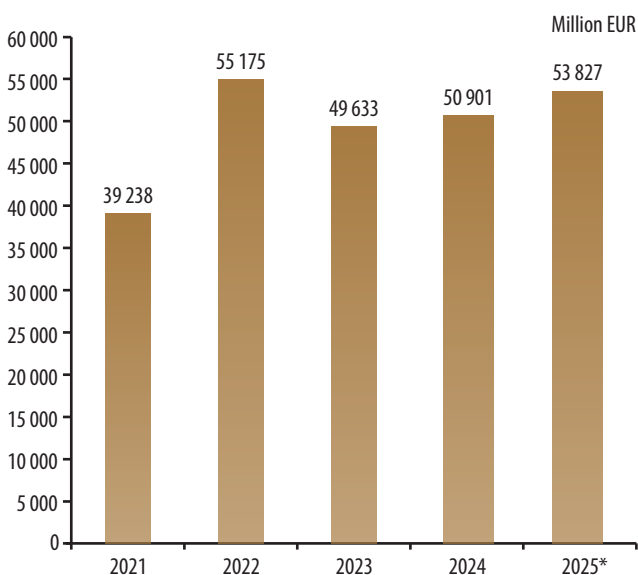
IMPORT

Import of goods in 2025 marked a positive change of 5,7% compared to the previous year.

The level of imports in 2025 amounts to more than 53 billion EUR. The leading partners in terms of imports are China, Germany and Turkey.

The largest increase in imports was in Raw materials and Energy Commodities: Raw tobacco (62,2%), followed by coal (49,8%) and Spare parts and equipment (21,2%), while the largest declines were in Raw skins (-20,6%), Ores (-17%) and Crude oil and Natural gas (-8,8%).

Imports by years



*Preliminary data

Source: Bulgarian National Bank

Imports by commodity groups

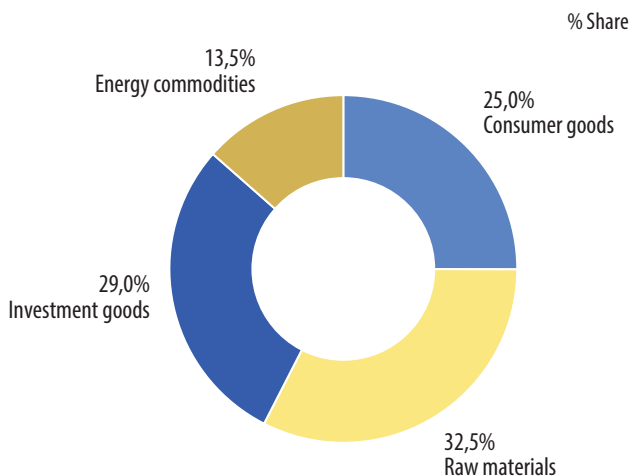
Million EUR

Years	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Consumer goods	8 844	11 445	11 985	12 477	13 475
Food, drinks and tobacco	2 885	4 007	4 315	4 768	5 109
Furniture and household appliances	1 387	1 562	1 468	1 492,9	1 561,9
Medicines and cosmetics	1 703	1 900	2 174	2 278	2 510
Clothing and footwear	963	1 405	1 422	1 367	1 420
Automobiles	485	634	842	892,9	967,6
Others	1 422	1 937	1 764	1 678	1 906
Raw materials	19 678	19 687	16 753	17 047	17 494
Ores	2 475	2 475	2 095	2 735	2 269
Iron and steel	2 204	2 204	1 671	1 560	1 544
Non-ferrous metals	1 681	1 681	1 499	1 555	1 681
Textiles	1 272	1 272	1 094	941,8	870
Wood products, paper and paperboard	1 045	1 045	898	825,9	827
Chemicals	1 268	1 268	1 081	1 050	1 150
Plastics and rubber	2 829	2 829	2 525	2 522	2 460
Raw materials for the food industry	1 965	1 966	1 343	1 512	1 751
Raw skins	53	53	43	39,9	31,7
Raw tobacco	88	88	83	82,1	133,2
Others	4 799	4 798	4 421	4 223	4 777
Investment goods	10 280	13 795	14 942	14 158	15 590
Machines and equipment	3 205	4 091	4 245	4 066	3 948
Electrical machines	1 756	2 333	2 557	2 463	2 710
Vehicles	1 565	2 108	2 749	2 272	2 729
Spare parts and equipment	2 160	3 240	3 138	2 782	3 372
Others	1 593	2 023	2 253	2 575,7	2 831
Total non energy commodities	34 001	44 918	43 679	43 682	46 559
Energy commodities	4 993	10 257	5 953	7 219	7 268
Fuels		8 618	4 551	4 961	4 605
Crude oil and Natural gas	3 948	7 129	3 873	4 637	4 230
Coal	3 243	346	94	41	61
Oils	1 045	1 639	1 402	2 258	2 663
Other Imports	245	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
TOTAL IMPORTS /CIF/	39 238	55 175	49 633	50 901	53 827

*Preliminary data

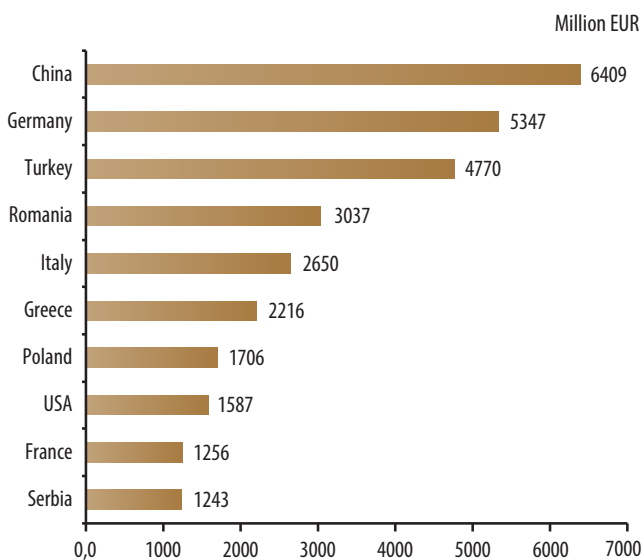
Source: Bulgarian National Bank

Structure of imports by commodity groups in 2025



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

Imports from the TOP 10 Bulgarian trade partner countries in 2025

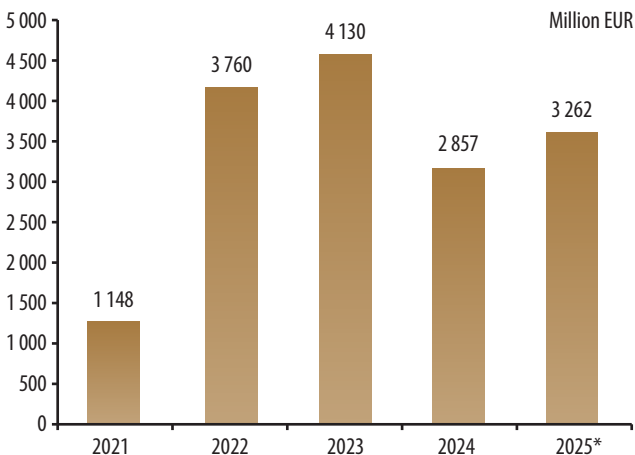


Source: Bulgarian National Bank

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

Foreign direct investment in Bulgaria reached EUR 3 262 million in 2025. The composition of FDI by country in 2025 suggests that foreign direct investments attracted from Netherlands (EUR 640 million), Greece (EUR 479 million euros) and Italy (EUR 333 million) accounted for the largest shares.

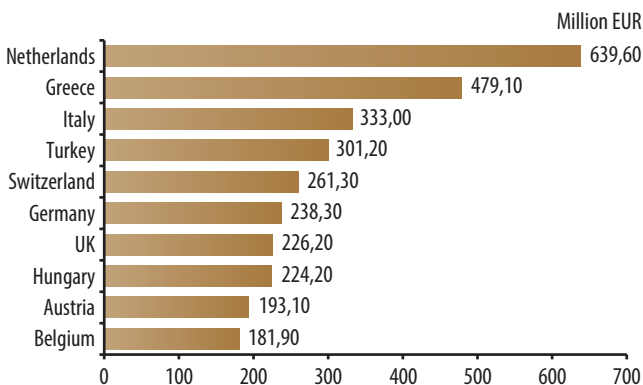
Foreign direct investment flows in Bulgaria by years



*Preliminary data

Source: Bulgarian National Bank

Foreign direct investment flows in Bulgaria – TOP 10 countries in 2025



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

Data represents preliminary annual estimates as of February 2026. Country distribution is based on the immediate counterparty country principle according to BNB methodology.

Foreign direct investment flows in Bulgaria by economic activity

Financial and insurance activities attracted about 28% of all FDI flows in 2025, followed by Manufacturing (20%); Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (11%).

Million EUR

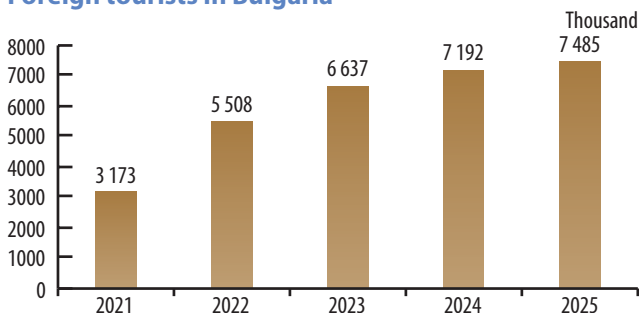
Year	2025
All FDI activities	3261,8
Construction	53,50
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,50
Mining and quarrying	103,3
Manufacturing	646,8
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	365,6
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	44,9
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	332,2
Transportation and storage	14,1
Accommodation and food service activities	23,1
Information and communication	7,1
Financial and insurance activities	906,7
Real estate activities	116,9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	163,0
Administrative and support service activities	85,2
Education	2,8
Human health and social work activities	1,6
Arts, entertainment and recreation	3,1
Other service activities	15,3
Not allocated	-19,3

Source: Bulgarian National Bank

TOURISM

Tourism has an important role in Bulgaria due to its economic, social and employment potential. The number of international tourists grew rapidly until 2019. In 2025, Bulgarian tourism continued to recover, surpassing the pre-pandemic levels.

Foreign tourists in Bulgaria



Source: National Statistical Institute

Notes: The included indicators for forming the total value of the "Tourism" point include – "Visits of foreigners to Bulgaria for the purpose of rest and excursion" and "Visits of foreigners to Bulgaria for business purposes". The following reasons for travel do not correspond – "visiting", "transit" and "others".

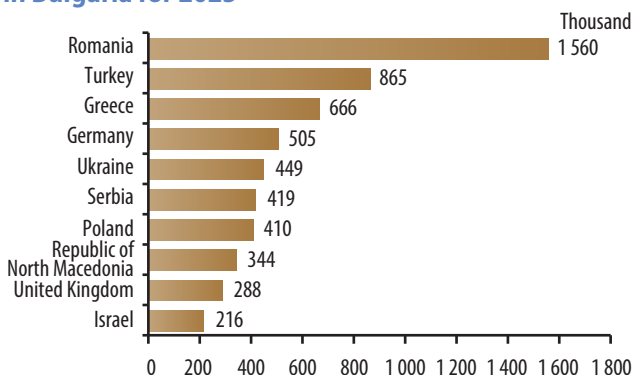


In 2025, the number of foreign tourists in Bulgaria is 7,5 million people. Foreign tourist has increased by 4% compared to 2024.

Schengen contributes to economic development, the transport sector, and tourism, facilitates the movement of goods, and helps promote Bulgaria as a tourist destination. The positive effects will have a long-term impact and are expected to grow over time.

International tourism revenues reached an all-time high of EUR 4,26 billion in 2025, driven by surging visitor confidence and extended seasonal travel.

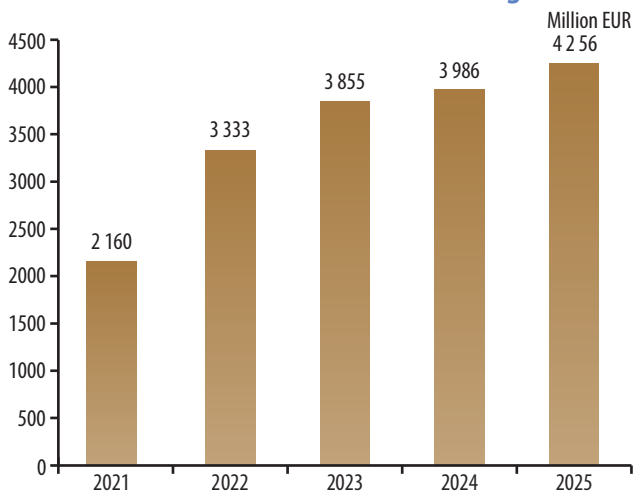
TOP 10 countries ranked by number of tourists in Bulgaria for 2025



Source: National Statistical Institute

The ranking by total number of visits (including transit) for 2025 is headed by Romania with 2,62 million visits, followed by Turkey with 2,42 million, Greece with 1,36 million and Germany with 1,02 million visits.

Revenue from international tourism in Bulgaria



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

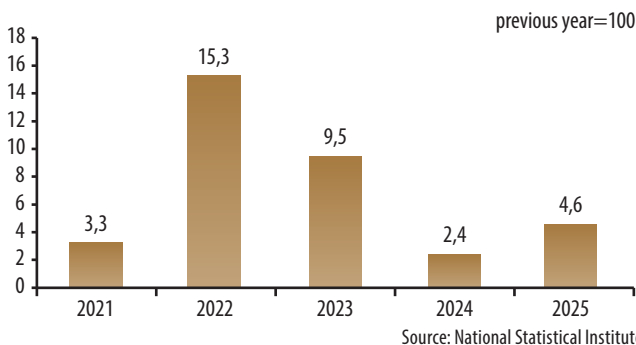
CONSUMER PRICES

Consumer price indices and annual inflation

In 2025, the average consumer price index was positive at 4,6%, marking a serious growth from 2024, when it was 2,4%.

HICP inflation is forecast to rise to 4,2% in 2026, mainly driven by higher energy prices linked to the conflict in the Middle East, recent increases in food prices and base effects related to the fading impact of the decline in hospital fees in April 2025. Increased input costs, second-round effects from higher energy prices, and persistent services inflation are set to keep inflation elevated in 2026-27.

Consumer price index (annual average inflation rates – %)



Annual average consumer price index by main categories (annual average inflation rates – %)

previous year=100

Main categories	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total CPI	3,3	15,3	9,5	2,4	4,6
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	2,8	22,0	13,7	2,6	5,9
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0,8	2,6	6,1	5,9	7,2
Clothing and footwear	-1,1	6,6	5,7	-0,4	-0,1
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	4,8	19,7	7,1	3	7,3
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	1,9	11,6	9,0	0,8	-0,3
Health	0,8	3,2	11,6	3,4	-2
Transport	10,4	22,7	-1,8	0,6	-0,4
Communication	-2,6	0,7	5,5	-2,3	0,4
Recreation and culture	5,8	10,9	12,4	0,2	13,7
Education	4,8	7,0	10,1	7,1	7,7
Restaurants and hotels	3,2	17,6	13,5	7,7	9,9
Miscellaneous goods and service	1,6	6,5	12,2	4,5	4,9

Source: National Statistical Institute

LABOUR MARKET

Labour force

According to the latest statistics, in 2025 the labor force in Bulgaria consisted of 3 million people – 53% men and 47% women. The majority of the workforce (91%) has completed some forms of higher or upper secondary education.

Labour force

Thousand

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total (15 and over)	3034	3068	3064	3060	3037
Labour force (15-64 years)	2940	2965	2951	2946	2914
By sex					
Male	1567	1572	1560	1560	1546
Female	1373	1393	1392	1385	1368
By level of education					
Higher	961	964	979	1076	1136
Upper secondary	1638	1668	1660	1599	1529
Lower secondary	288	288	267	225	207
Primary or lower	52	45	45	45	41

Source: National Statistical Institute

Employment

In 2025, the employment rate was 70,7%, a slight decrease from 70,9% in 2024.

In 2025 the number of economically active population aged 15-64 was 2914 thousand and represented 73,5% of the population in the same age group. Compared with 2024, the activity rate decreased by 0,5 percentage points.

Employment

Thousand

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Employment rate (15-64 years), %	68,5	70,6	70,7	70,9	70,7
	Number (thousand)				
Total employment	2877	2941	2932	2933	2930
Employers	108	115	120	143	165
Self-employed	195	199	198	197	209
Employees					
In private enterprises	1933	2012	2003	1951	1889
In public enterprises	625	599	598	632	658
Unpaid family workers	16	15	13	10	9

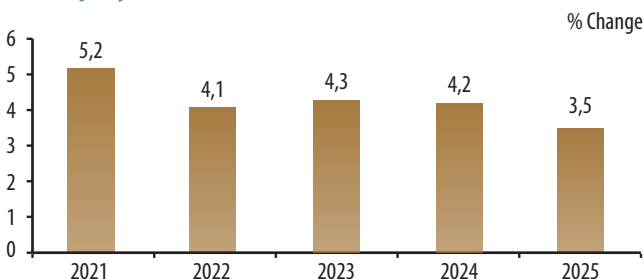
Source: National Statistical Institute

Unemployment

The unemployment rate declined to a historic low of 3,5% in 2025. Significant labour shortages persist in key sectors, including manufacturing, construction, education and health, reflecting demographic trends and the shrinking working-age population.

Continued labour market tightness is also expected to sustain wage pressures, albeit to a lesser extent than in recent years. (Spring 2026 Economic Forecast)

Unemployment

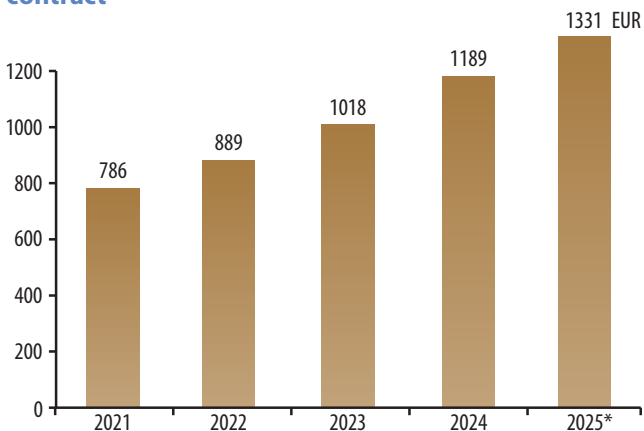


Source: National Statistical Institute

Average monthly salary

In 2025, the average labour costs per hour reported in Bulgaria (EUR 12,0) are almost 2.9 times lower than the average (EUR 34,9). In 2025, average labour costs per hour were estimated at EUR 34.9 in the EU and at EUR 38,2 in the Eurozone. In 2025, average monthly wages for employees in Bulgaria have risen to EUR 1 331, a significant nominal increase of 12,0%.

Average monthly salary of employees by labor contract



*Preliminary data

Source: National Statistical Institute, Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

EDUCATION

Higher education plays a crucial role for the development of intelligent and sustainable economy. Thanks to the efforts of the higher education institutions in the country, they continue to attract the most talented students. Bulgarian universities offer a wide range of specialties.

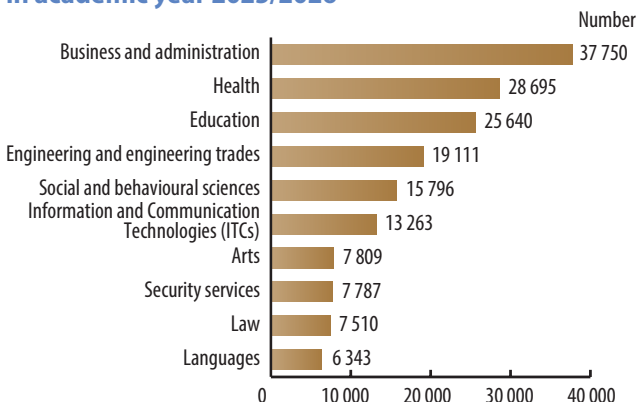
Higher schools by type

Academic year	Number
2025/26	
Total	51
Universities and equivalent higher schools	48
Colleges	19
Independent colleges	3
Colleges, at the universities and equivalent higher schools	16

Source: National Statistical Institute

The types of higher education institutions in Bulgaria are Universities and equivalent higher schools and Colleges. During the 2025/2026 academic year in the 51 educational institutions the total number of the students (in degrees 'Professional bachelor', 'Bachelor', 'Master' and 'PhD') is 203 517.

TOP 10 field of education by number of students in academic year 2025/2026



Source: National Statistical Institute

The most preferred fields of education (for all degrees) in Bulgaria are "Business and Administration" (19%), followed by "Health" (14%), "Education"(13%) and "Engineering and engineering trades" (9%). Universities in Bulgaria attract many international students due to excellent quality education, diploma recognized in EU/EEA and beyond, good level of costs and different programs in English, German and French.

BULGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY – important facts and figures

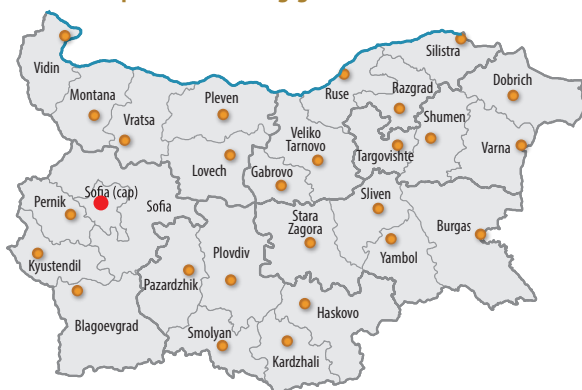
- ▲ The BCCI is the leading employers' association in Bulgaria – comprising of over 59 000 members and Trade Representation Offices, in which more than 690 thousand persons are employed on Employment Contracts (32% of the total, employed in this country).
- ▲ The BCCI is based on the principles of voluntary membership, autonomy and self-financing and seeks to establish ethical and socially responsible relationships in business.
- ▲ The BCCI contributes to the creation of a more favourable business environment and dedicates many efforts to the promotion and support of entrepreneurship and innovation initiatives.
- ▲ The BCCI is a part of the Association of the Organisations of Bulgarian Employers (AOBE) – a free union of the four employers' organisations that are officially acknowledged as representative under the effective legislation.
- ▲ The BCCI is a universal organisation in which all members are companies from various sectors and of different sizes, which comply with the Code of Business Ethics.
- ▲ 28 Regional Commerce and Industry Chambers and offices are united in the Unified System of the Bulgarian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
- ▲ BCCI participates in over 200 public-private bodies.
- ▲ BCCI has 294 local bodies in 265 municipalities, i.e. full territorial coverage of the country is provided.
- ▲ BCCI is a regular member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), World Chambers Federation (WCF), Association of European Chambers of Commerce (Eurochambres), World Trade Centers Association (WTCA), Association of the Balkan Chambers (ABC), Regional Cooperation Council, BSEC Business Council, Central European Initiative (CEI), GS1 AISBL, Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce (SRCIC), Chambers of Commerce within the Three Seas Initiative, etc.
- ▲ A Club of Joint and Foreign Chambers in Bulgaria with over 50 organisations operates at BCCI.
- ▲ 100 Sectoral Organisations – members of the Council of Sectoral Organisations at BCCI.
- ▲ An Arbitration Court with more than 125 years of activity operates at BCCI.

**131 years reliable partner and source
of information for entrepreneurs**

BULGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

The 28 Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry & offices

<https://www.bcci.bg/general-bcci-en.html>



Structures and services



**BCCI – CENTRE FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING,
TRANSLATIONS, CONSULTATIONS
AND COMPANY SERVICES EOOD**

i Additional information:

<https://www.center.bcci.bg/15>

Main activities:

1. Consultations on economic activity; legal issues; projects for financing; marketing research; tax issues.
2. Filling in/elaboration of commercial documents.
3. Translation / interpretation services.
4. Training.
5. Fairs and Exhibitions.

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E-mail: **M.Damyanova@bcci.bg**



**3D CENTER FOR 3D PRINTING, SCANNING
AND MODELING**

i Additional information:

<https://3dcenter.bg>

Main activities:

1. Prototyping and production of small series of details using 3D printers.
2. Reengineering of details and entire products using 3D scanners.
3. 3D modeling.
4. Trainings.
5. Research and Development Projects.

For Contacts: **Vasil Todorov**

Tel.: (+359 2) 8117 457

E-mail: **office@3dcenter.bg**



TRADE REGISTER AND MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORATE



Additional information:

<https://www.bcci.bg/tradereg-system-en.html>

Main activities:

1. Trade Register Services
 - ▲ Registration of companies, organisations and other legal persons in the voluntary Unified Trade Register of BCCI;
 - ▲ Obligatory registration of the Trade Representation Offices of foreign persons in Bulgaria;
 - ▲ Maintenance and update of the information on the legal persons, registered in the BCCI Trade Register;
 - ▲ Issuing Certificates and Reports in Bulgarian and in foreign languages about the status and financial condition of the registered legal persons;
 - ▲ Providing verbal and written information in Bulgarian and in foreign languages with data about the registered legal persons.
2. Membership with BCCI.
3. Issuance and validation of documents:
 - ▲ Certificates of origin of Goods, including electronic certificates; BCCI is the only organisation in Bulgaria accredited by ICC WCF-Paris to issue Certificates of Origin of Goods. BCCI has a Permit from the Bulgarian Customs Agency to issue Non-Preferential Certificates of Origin of Goods;
 - ▲ Validation of the signatures of the legal representatives of the registered legal persons, put on Export Invoices, Declarations, etc.
4. Issue of ATA Carnets, including electronic ATA carnets – international unified customs guarantee documents for temporary importation, exportation and transit of goods under the International Convention ATA and the Istanbul Convention for Temporary Import.
5. Issue of Certificates of Force Majeure.
6. Assistance in obtaining information about the existence and current status of foreign companies.
7. BCCI offers services for issuing of personal and professional qualified electronic signature.
8. Carrying out interaction with the 28 Regional Commerce and Industry Chambers and offices.
9. Carrying out interaction and coordination with the Sectoral Organisations which are members of the Council of Sectoral Organisations at BCCI.

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Tel.: (+359 2) 987 88 84, 8117 476

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EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND EUROPEAN PROJECTS DIRECTORATE



Additional information:

<http://www.bcci.bg/projectsBCCI.htm>

<http://www.bcci.bg/seminars-en.html>

<http://www.bcci.bg/economic-analyses-en.html>

Main activities:

1. Participation in EU funded projects.
2. Enhancing the BCCI's capacity to manage activities under EU programmes.
3. Writing and submitting proposals under EU programmes focused on innovations and business environment improvement to enforce the capacity and competitiveness of SMEs and support them to be smart, green, connected and social.
4. Supporting the development and strengthening of the SMEs, providing them the opportunities for participation in exchange EU programmes, free participation in fairs, business missions, match making events, including them in new business networks etc.
5. Business research inquiries at a request of the customers.
6. Economic analyses by sectors.
7. Database references about the financial results of a company or a group of companies.
8. Annual classification TOP 100/ TOP 1500 – The leading companies in the Bulgarian economy.
9. Provision of information based on the annual financial statements of the companies.
10. Publication of annual financial statements.

For Contacts: **Mariana Tancheva, Director**

Tel.: (+359 2) 988 34 82; 8117 508

E-mail: mtancheva@bcci.bg

Economic Analysis and Policy Department, Tel.: (+359 2) 8117 410



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTORATE



Additional information:

<http://www.bcci.bg/business-delegations-en.html>

<http://www.bcci.bg/seminars-en.html>

<http://www.bcci.bg/company-presentation.html>

Main activities:

1. Assistance for establishing business contacts with partners from all over the world, matchmaking.
2. Organizing workshops and seminars with Bulgarian and foreign lecturers for entrepreneurs.
3. Organizing business missions.
4. Cooperation with partnering national and international business organizations.

For Contacts: **Gabriela Dimitrova, Director**

Tel.: (+359 2) 987 25 38; 8117 489

E-mail: interdpt@bcci.bg, G.Dimitrova@bcci.bg



ARBITRATION COURT AT BCCI



Additional information:

<https://www.bcci.bg/bcci-arbitration-court-en.html>

Main activities:

1. Out-of-court tribunal institution for fast and efficient settlement of private law property disputes.
2. Four times lower taxes for big claims in comparison with the taxes, applied by public court.
3. A possibility in disputes where one party is a foreign person or a local company with prevailing foreign participation, such party may appoint a foreign citizen for arbitrator who is not included in the list of arbitrators for international cases.
4. 93% of the cases are solved within 1 year.
5. Possibility to involve private law enforcement agents.
6. AC at BCCI provided to the participants in the arbitration proceedings access to the case files through bilingual electronic internet-based platform.
7. The possibility to hear cases remotely via videoconferencing has been created, which further reduces costs and saves time for the parties in the arbitration process.
7. Regional lists of arbitrators are created.

Arbitration Clause, recommended by the BCCI: "Any disputes arising from this contract or concerning it, including disputes arising from or concerning its interpretation, invalidity, non-performance of termination, as well as disputes about filling gaps in a contract or its adaption to newly arisen circumstances, shall be settled by the Arbitration Court at the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in accordance with its Rules for cases based on Arbitration Agreements."

For Contacts: **President of the AC at the BCCI**

Natalia Stefanova, Secretary of the Arbitration Court

Nina Nikolova, Secretary of the Arbitration Court

Tel.: (+359 2) 8117 434, 8117 546, 8117 561

E-mail: acourt@bcci.bg



GS1 BULGARIA



Additional information:

<http://www.gs1bg.org>

Main activities:

Member of GS1 AISBL – non-profit organization that develops and maintains global standards for unique identification as well as capturing and sharing product, location, packaging and other data. The standards improve the efficiency and transparency along the supply chain across physical and digital channels in 25 sectors. The implementation of GS1 standards helps companies comply with regulatory requirements, such as the Digital Product Passport, ESG, packaging and others. As demand for product information grows and packaging space remains limited, GS1 is working together with the industry to replace one-dimensional barcodes with 2D barcodes that can carry much more data (Sunrise 2027). GS1 Bulgaria brings together more than 5000 Bulgarian companies.

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Tel.: (+359 2) 8117 604

E-mail: gs1bulgaria@gs1bg.org

INDUSTRIAL ZONES

INDUSTRIAL ZONES of "National Company Industrial Zones"

<http://www.nciz.bg/>

SOFIA-BOZHURISHTA INDUSTRIAL PARK, Sofia
INDUSTRIAL AND LOGISTIC PARK – BURGAS, Burgas
FREE ZONE-RUSE, Ruse
TRANSIT TRADE ZONE VARNA, Varna
INDUSTRIAL ZONE ZAGORE, Stara Zagora

Register of Industrial Parks – Ministry of Economy, Investments and Industry of Bulgaria

The Ministry of Economy, Investments and Industry of Bulgaria maintains a Register of Industrial Parks under Art. 21. (1) of the Industrial Parks. BCCI prepared a sample of the data from the register.

TRAKIA ECONOMIC ZONE (TEZ), Plovdiv region – integrates several certified sub-zones:

- **MARITSA CARBON NEUTRAL INDUSTRIAL PARK**
- **TRAKIA INDUSTRIAL PARK – GREEN TRANSITION**, Pazardzhik Municipality
- **STRYAMA INDUSTRIAL PARK**, Plovdiv Region
- **TSALAPITSA INDUSTRIAL PARK**, Plovdiv Region
- **HI-TECH INDUSTRIAL PARK "RHODOPI"**, Plovdiv Region

INDUSTRIAL PARK PLEVEN, Telish, Pleven Region
INDUSTRIAL PARK SOFIA, Bozhurishte, Sofia region
VIDIN INDUSTRIAL PARK, Vidin
KARLOVO INDUSTRIAL PARK, Karlovo municipality, Plovdiv region
SUVOROVO INDUSTRIAL PARK – VARNA WEST, Suvorovo municipality, Varna region
SHUMEN INDUSTRIAL PARK, Shumen
LVZ INDUSTRIAL PARK, Ruse
HI-TECH INDUSTRIAL PARK HEMUS, Sofia
DANUBE INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY PARK SVISHTOV EAD, Svishtov
INDUSTRIAL PARK – BURGAS (PHASE 2, PHASE 1), Burgas
BALKAN INDUSTRIAL PARK, Lovech
INDUSTRIAL PARK – PERNIK, Pernik
DANUBE INDUSTRIAL PARK, Municipality of Vidin
BALKANI INDUSTRIAL PARK, Municipality of Vidin
PLEVEN INDUSTRIAL PARK, Pleven
HEMUS INDUSTRIAL PARK, Sofia Municipality
HEMUS-HARMONY INDUSTRIAL PARK, Sofia Municipality
CHELOPECHENE INDUSTRIAL PARK, Sofia
INDUSTRIAL PARK – RYAKHOVETS, Veliko Tarnovo Region
MADARA-SHUMEN INDUSTRIAL PARK, Shumen
SLIVEN INDUSTRIAL PARK, Sliven
TRILISTNIK INDUSTRIAL PARK, Region Plovdiv
TARGOVISHTA INDUSTRIAL PARK, Targovishte Municipality
GREENYARD TECH PARK, Sliven region
HIGH-TECH PRODUCTION PARK SOFIA – WEST, Sofia
INDUSTRIAL PARK – DOBRICH, Dobrich
RADNEVO INDUSTRIAL PARK, Stara Zagora Region, Radnevo Municipality
For More information: <https://www.mi.government.bg/register/register-na-industrialnite-parkove-po-chl-21-1-ot-zakona-za-industrialnite-parkove/>

OTHER INDUSTRIAL ZONES – BCCI

<http://www.bcci.bg/zones/>

Through our regional Chambers of commerce and industry, BCCI has made a Survey of Industrial zones and has sorted the data in a special Register published on the BCCI website. We attach a sample from the BCCI Register, comprising some Industrial zones in addition to the ones described above. For more detailed information about a specific Industrial zone or park, please feel welcome to contact us.

INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Vratza
INDUSTRIAL ZONE KARDZHALI – SOUTH, Kardzhali
INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Troyan
FREE ZONE – PLOVDIV, Plovdiv
DIMITROVGRAD INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Haskovo
LOGISTICS PARK BPD RUSE, Ruse

PROMINENT SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & R&D PARKS

Sofia Tech Park, Sofia
Lozen Tech Park, Sofia

DIGITAL TOOL FOR REAL-TIME SELECTION

The interactive investment map, developed by the Ministry of Innovation and Growth of Bulgaria and Invest Bulgaria Agency, provides centralized, accessible and verified information about land, industrial and logistics zones, science and technology hubs, as well as educational and research institutions. It is created as a digital and interactive practical tool for orientation, planning and making informed decisions by investors at the national and regional level – <https://investmap.government.bg/en>.



**The building of Sofia
Commercial and Industrial Chamber
2 Slavianska Str., Sofia
built in 1914**

**The building of the BCCI
42 Parchevich Str., Sofia
Opened 1995**



**New building of the BCCI
9 Iskar Str., Sofia**

Bulgaria in figures®



Guidelines on the Activity of BCCI



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