



БЪЛГАРСКА ТЪРГОВСКО-ПРОМИШЛЕНА ПАЛАТА
BULGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

127 години надежден партньор

BULGARIA IN FIGURES®

13th
edition

127 years reliable partner

2022

**The brochure has been compiled
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**National Statistical Institute,
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and InvestBulgaria Agency.**

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Dear business partners,

The Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) is pleased to present to your attention the 2022 edition of the brochure "Bulgaria in Figures" in which you can find information about the main macroeconomic indicators of the country and the assessment of a number of leading international organizations.

We hope that the decision to join the Eurozone, after complying with the respective requirements and meeting the necessary deadlines, will give a new impetus to the growing entrepreneurial interest in Bulgaria.

2021 was a year of readjustment and adaptation of the business models, of optimization and development of the hybrid model of work, and of gradual recovery from the disruptions caused by COVID-19.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine added to these disturbances, but because of the conflict's proximity to Bulgaria, an extremely careful approach is required with regard to the measures taken by the international community to limit it and when possible to end it. At the same time, the proximity to the conflict allows a number of businesses to relocate to Bulgaria at a lower cost, concrete support to be provided for the export of Ukrainian products by using our logistical capabilities, and later on for our country to successfully participate in the recovery of the economy of Ukraine.

2022 began with increased expectations of the business community and the citizens for improvement of the economic situation not only in our country but also around the world, due to the introduction of facilitated measures related to the pandemic.

Despite the difficulties for entrepreneurs, BCCI continues to actively carry out its mission by supporting companies in finding new supply channels, locating new markets, and integrating processes which create sustainable development.

This whole time, the Chamber has and will continue to give recommendations and defend positions before the Bulgarian and EU governments on improving the way of doing business, curbing the negative impact of the conflict and the pandemic, minimizing the inflation processes, and improving the functioning of the administration through full digitalization of its services. Carefully, but without being a supporter of the interference with budget funds in the daily activities of companies, BCCI has to take part in the preparation and implementation of measures that aimed at least partially to ensure equal positions of the companies operating in Bulgaria to those of their competitors in the EU and around the world.

BCCI will continue to provide information and consultations, to create contacts and cooperation <https://www.bcci.bg/international-en.html> at all stages of business life, including by providing assistance for the settlement of the many emerging disputes due to the delay and/or non-fulfillment of contractual obligations <https://www.bcci.bg/bcci-arbitration-court-en.html>.

We hope that with this publication we will once again give a clearer picture of the situation in Bulgaria and will help attract the interest of investors.

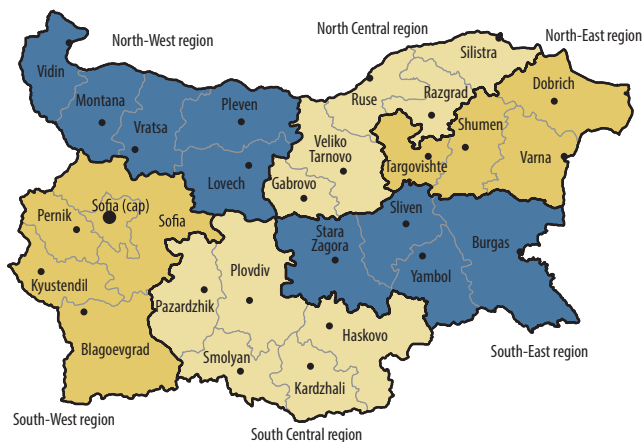
BCCI remains at your disposal for assistance, consultations and research <https://www.bcci.bg/economic-analyses-en.html> on any particular cases concerning the economic and market relations.

Willing to continue to create more security and resilience of Bulgarian and foreign entrepreneurs, I remain

Yours sincerely,

Tsvetan Simeonov
BCCI President

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA



General data

State government: Parliamentary Republic

Head of state: President

Head of government: Prime Minister

Capital: Sofia

Area: 111 001.9 sq.km.

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

Population: 6 838 937 persons as of 31.12.2021

Official language: Bulgarian

Religion: Mostly Eastern Orthodox Christians

National currency: LEV (BGN – fixed to the Euro, 1 EUR = 1.95583 BGN, since 1997, member of ERM II – since 2020)

Facts about Bulgaria

- ▲ EU, NATO and WTO Membership
- ▲ Strategic geographical location and openness to foreign markets: crossroad between Europe, Asia and Africa
- ▲ Stability in financial environment: Bulgaria's debt is the third lowest in the EU 27 (25,1% of GDP) as of 2021
- ▲ Business-friendly environment: Simple and low taxation
- ▲ Competitive operational costs and competitive labour level

Main indicators – actual data

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
GDP (mill. EUR)	52 530	56 224	61 557	61 330	67 871
GDP real growth rate (%)	3,3	3,5	3,7	-4,5	3,6
Inflation (%)	2,1	2,8	3,1	1,7	3,3
Government deficit/surplus (% of GDP)	1,6	1,7	2,1	-4,0	-4,1
Exports (mill. EUR)	27 916	28 648	29 890	28 008	34 867
Imports (mill. EUR)	30 286	32 148	33 740	30 742	39 224
Employment rate (%)	66,9	67,7	70,1	68,5	68,1
Unemployment rate (%)	6,2	5,2	4,2	5,1	5,3

*Preliminary data

Source: Eurostat, Bulgarian National Bank, National Statistical Institute

Macroeconomic forecast

	2021	2022	2023
Gross Domestic Product (% change)	4,2	2,1	3,1
Employment growth (%)	0,2	0,2	0,4
Unemployment rate (%)	5,3	5,4	5,3
Inflation (%)	2,8	11,9	5,0
General government balance (% of GDP)	-4,1	-3,7	-2,4
General government gross debt (% of GDP)	25,1	25,3	25,6

Source: Spring 2022 Economic Forecast, European Commission

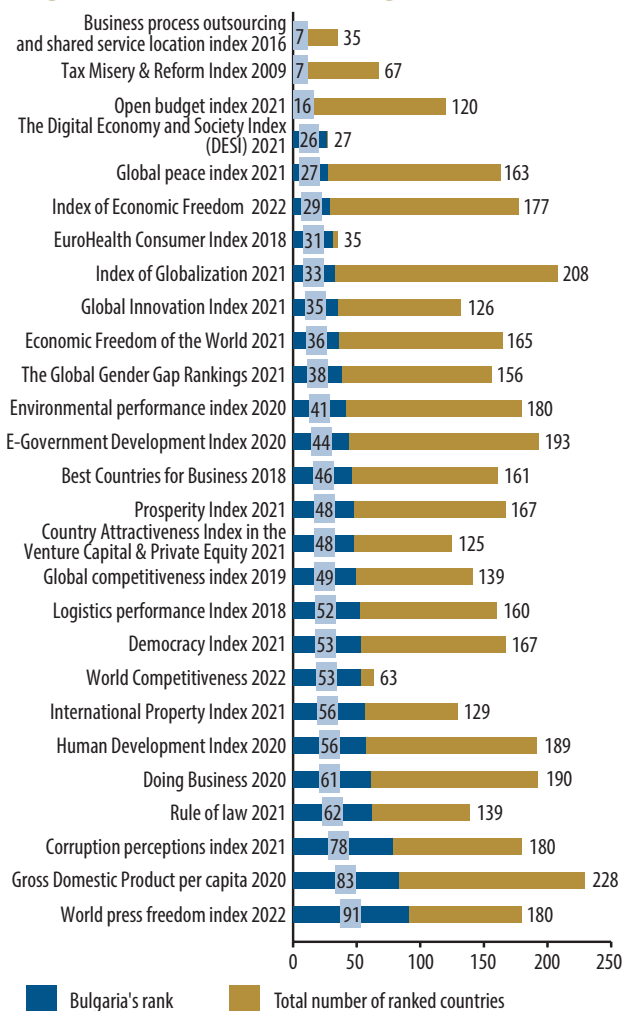
BULGARIA IN THE INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

Bulgaria has competitive positions in numerous international indices. According to the following rankings the country has the best performance in terms of business process outsourcing (BPO), low taxes and openness of budget procedure. In 2022 Bulgaria climbs from 112 to 91 position in World Press Freedom Index.

For more information:

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

Bulgaria in international rankings

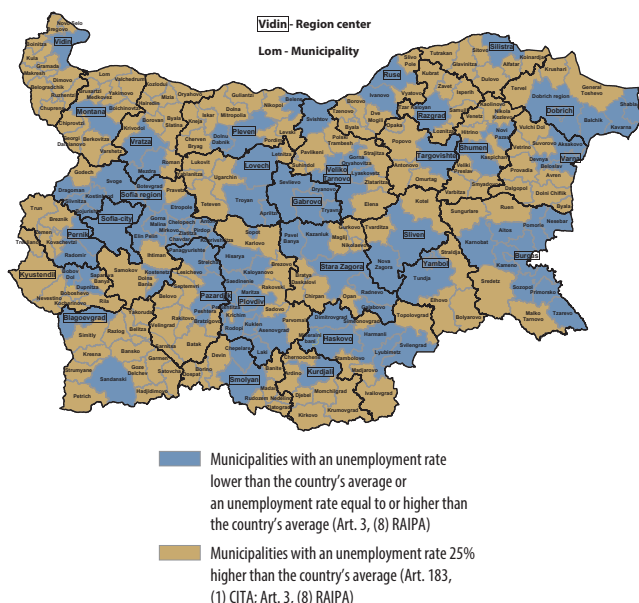


Source: Respective websites

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 13 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%, with the exception of hotel services, where a reduced rate of 9% is applied. As a measure for Covid-19 in mid-2020, Bulgaria reduced VAT to 9% for some products and services (children's goods, restaurant and catering services and books) and extended the measure until the end of 2022. As anti-inflationary measures, the government undertook other reductions in the tax system for a period of 1 year. In Bulgaria taxpayers are released from payment of corporate tax in regions with high unemployment rates. In 2021 about 2/3 of municipalities – 164 (of total 265 in Bulgaria) had 25% higher than the average rate of unemployment for the country and there is 0% corporate income tax.

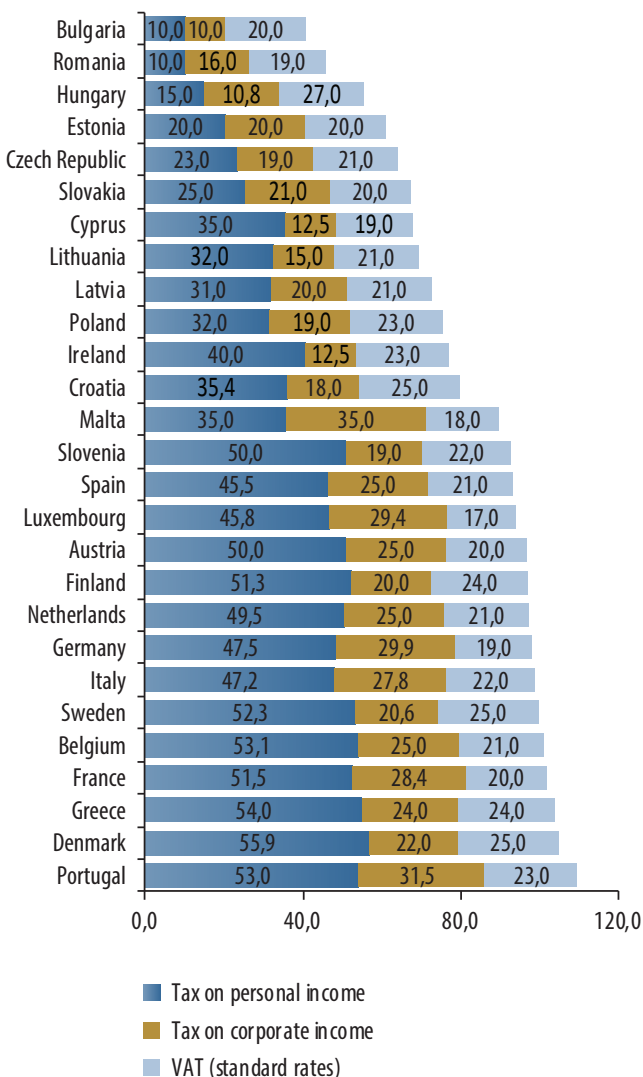
Unemployment by municipalities – 0% corporate tax in regions shown in orange



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

Bulgaria is the fourth least tax burdened country in the EU as of 2020: The overall tax-to-GDP ratio in Bulgaria is 30.6% for 2020, compared to an EU average of 41.3%.

Top statutory income tax rates and standard VAT rates (2021), %



Source: Eurostat

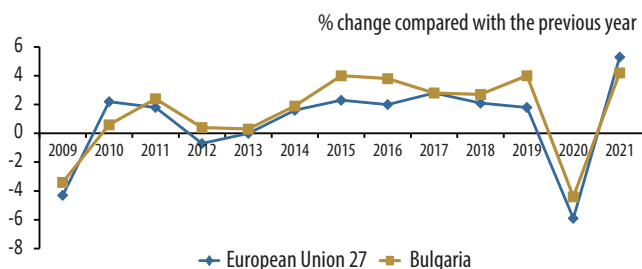
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

In the recent years the Bulgarian economy has been growing steadily, with higher rates than the EU average. Over 2015 economic activity in Bulgaria accelerated significantly. Unfortunately in 2020 Covid-19 created major changes in expectations for GDP levels. Bulgaria recorded a decline of -4.2% of GDP, while the average decline for the EU27 was 6.1% of GDP.

In 2021 real growth of GDP in Bulgaria reached 4.2%. Growing domestic demand was the main driver for GDP and it is expected to remain in the next years.

The Bulgarian companies expect the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) to play a leading role in development and recovery, which will have a positive effect on GDP growth.

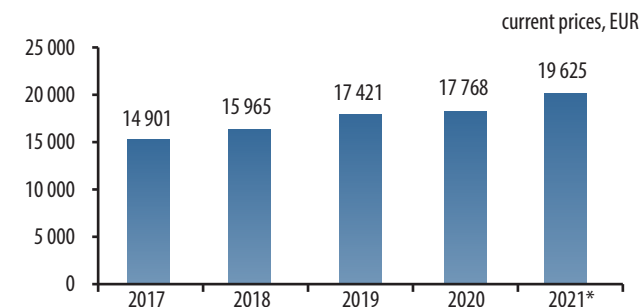
Real GDP growth rate



Source: Eurostat

Over the past five years the GDP per employed has grown. The main factor of growth has been the increase of Gross Value Added in the economy, which continues to grow, albeit at a slow pace, through the COVID-19 pandemic.

GDP per employed



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

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	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2 123	1 903	1 995	2 150	2 531
Mining, quarrying and manufacturing	10 729	10 562	10 982	10 831	13 036
Construction	1 866	2 035	2 367	2 614	2 599
Wholesale and retail trade	10 125	11 252	12 517	11 391	12 195
Information and communication	2 760	3 303	4 022	4 401	4 737
Financial and insurance activities	2 974	3 238	3 080	2 976	3 290
Real estate activities	4 515	5 145	5 494	5 218	5 510
Professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities	2 743	3 155	3 750	3 696	3 880
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security; education; human health and social work activities	6 285	7 024	7 667	8 872	10 084
Arts, entertainment and recreation, repair of household goods and other services	1 057	1 099	1 276	1 012	1 151
Gross Value Added	45 176	48 715	53 150	53 162	59 013
Adjustments (taxes less subsidies on products)	7 355	7 509	8 407	8 168	8 858
Gross Domestic Product	52 530	56 224	61 557	61 330	67 871

* Preliminary data

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

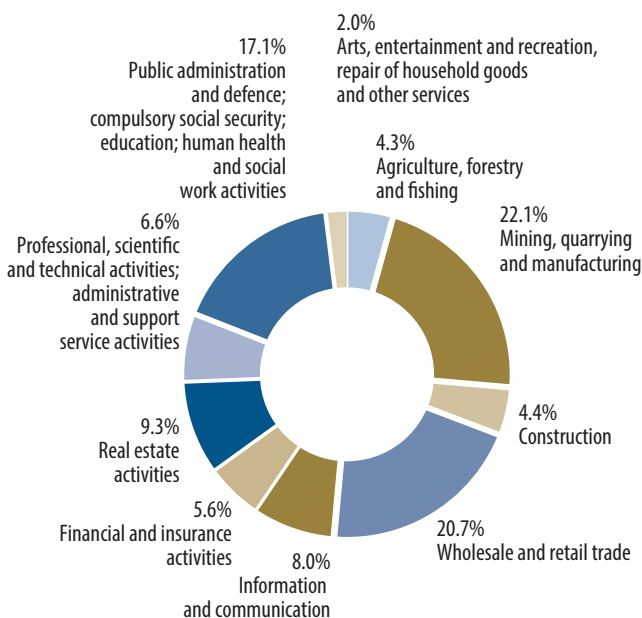
In 2021 Mining, Quarrying and Manufacturing and Agriculture, forestry and fishing were the most important engines for the growth in the gross value added compared to 2020.

The sectors that reported the largest contribution to GDP in 2021 (share of 43%) were Mining, Quarrying and Manufacturing and Wholesale and Retail Trade.

The relative share of Industry in the GVA of the national economy is 26.5%. The Services sector creates 69.2% of the total GVA and Agriculture – 4,3%.

Structure of Gross Value Added by economic sectors and economic activity groupings in 2021

Million EUR



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

EXPORT

Exports make a strong contribution to GDP.

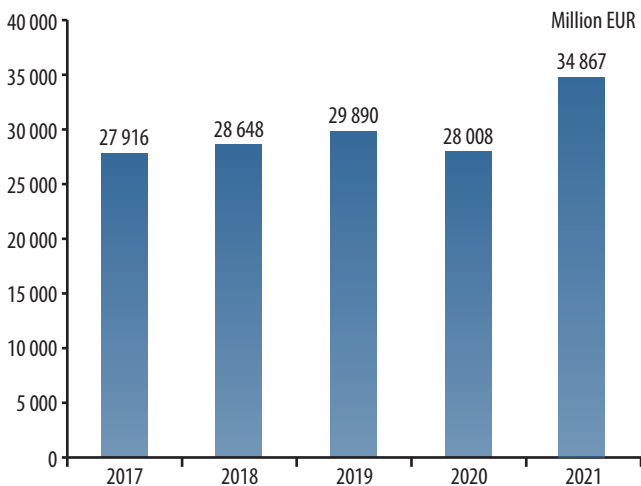
In 2021, exports of goods reached record levels - 35 billion euros or an increase of over 24%. This is a consequence of low levels of exports in 2020, due to the interruption of supply chains, delay in supplies and the development of the pandemic of Covid-19.

In almost all commodity groups there are significant changes compared to 2020. Of all products, exports of Fertilizers, Iron and steel, Raw materials for the food industry and Electrical machines reported the highest growth compared to 2020.

Exports to Germany, Romania and Italy have the largest share of Bulgarian exports to EU members (about 50%).

Exports of goods and services are expected to grow at a faster pace than imports in the current and next year in line with the dynamics of external demand. Given the disruption of supply chains from third countries and the demand for EU partners, Bulgaria has opportunities because of its competitive advantages.

Exports by years



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

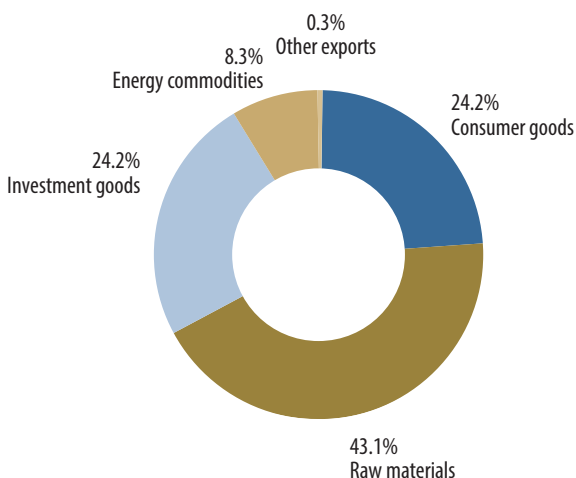
Exports by commodity groups

Years	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Consumer goods	6 849	7 098	7 590	7 662	8 428
Food	1 649	1 718	1 789	1 884	2 323
Tobacco	138	97	64	54	54
Beverages	102	114	179	211	159
Clothing and footwear	1 661	1 623	1 619	1 373	1 384
Medicines and cosmetics	1 103	1 134	1 264	1 344	1 269
Furniture and household appliances	1 087	1 130	1 227	1 274	1 600
Others	1 108	1 283	1 447	1 523	1 640
Raw materials	10 878	11 385	11 682	11 679	15 031
Iron and steel	536	676	608	535	976
Non-ferrous metals	2 821	2 759	2 327	2 570	3 203
Chemicals	422	463	488	437	542
Plastics and rubber	955	1 014	1 146	1 179	1 473
Fertilizers	214	190	236	158	298
Textiles	560	598	604	495	571
Raw materials for the food industry	1 893	1 973	2 333	2 257	2 988
Wood products, paper and paperboard	523	535	555	520	674
Cement	33	23	20	24	31
Raw tobacco	128	121	122	109	111
Others	2 794	3 033	3 242	3 395	4 165
Investment goods	7 023	7 204	7 273	6 886	8 419
Machines and equipment	1 558	1 671	1 865	1 738	2 082
Electrical machines	815	1 029	1 184	1 122	1 475
Vehicles	635	584	639	554	637
Spare parts and equipment	1 574	1 771	1 856	1 667	2 012
Others	2 441	2 148	1 729	1 805	2 214
Total non energy commodities	24 750	25 687	26 546	26 227	31 878
Energy commodities	3 109	2 902	3 275	1 697	2 890
Petroleum products	2 259	2 078	2 351	1 008	1 121
Others	850	823	924	689	1 769
Other Exports	56	60	69	84	99
TOTAL EXPORTS /FOB/	27 916	28 648	29 890	28 008	34 867

Source: Bulgarian National Bank

Structure of exports by commodity groups in 2021

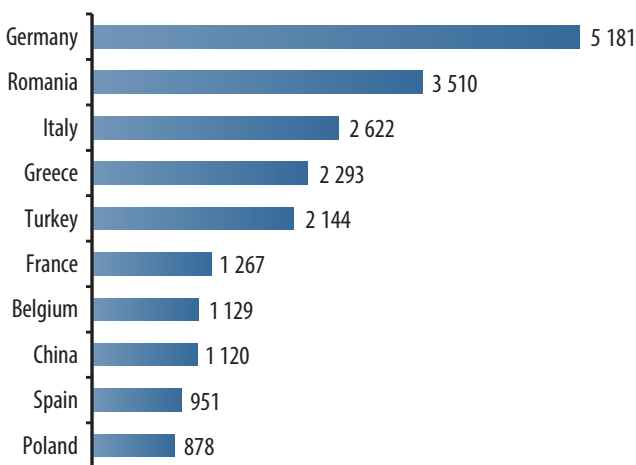
Million EUR



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

Exports to the TOP 10 Bulgarian trade partner countries in 2021

Million EUR



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

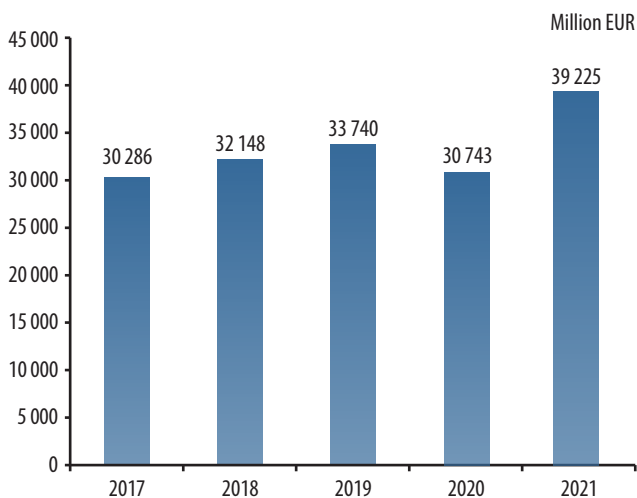
IMPORT

Both exports and imports of goods marked a significant increase in 2021 compared to the previous year. In 2021 imports increased by nearly 28% compared to 2020 and increased by 16% compared to 2019 (the year before COVID-19 pandemic).

The levels of imports in 2021 amount to more than 39 billion EUR. The leading partners in terms of imports are Germany, China, Turkey, Russian Federation, Italy and others.

Coal has the largest growth in imports (over 82%), followed by Crude oil and Natural gas (77%) and Iron and steel (63%).

Imports by years



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

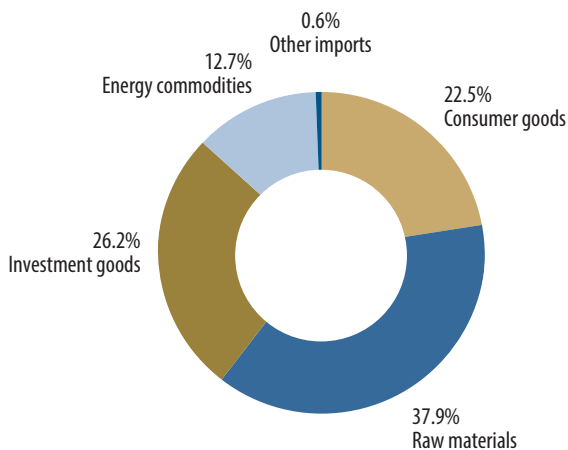
Imports by commodity groups

Years	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Consumer goods	6 527	6 955	7 701	7 558	8 835
Food, drinks and tobacco	2 087	2 231	2 542	2 589	2 885
Furniture and household appliances	823	896	1 032	1 019	1 382
Medicines and cosmetics	1 375	1 442	1 531	1 585	1 703
Clothing and footwear	800	830	906	802	962
Automobiles	481	491	499	393	484
Others	961	1 065	1 192	1 171	1 419
Raw materials	11 159	11 811	11 735	11 643	14 872
Ores	1 741	1 838	1 537	1 903	2 063
Iron and steel	1 024	1 208	1 211	1 029	1 682
Non-ferrous metals	964	979	894	855	1 247
Textiles	1 246	1 242	1 202	965	1 053
Wood products, paper and paperboard	577	627	648	607	760
Chemicals	692	743	766	749	916
Plastics and rubber	1 651	1 761	1 832	1 744	2 358
Raw materials for the food industry	744	702	845	1 081	1 098
Raw skins	79	77	72	52	50
Raw tobacco	88	85	79	58	74
Others	2 354	2 551	2 650	2 599	3 571
Investment goods	7 837	8 562	9 102	8 404	10 278
Machines and equipment	2 603	2 778	2 879	2 712	3 208
Electrical machines	1 088	1 199	1 414	1 359	1 757
Vehicles	1 371	1 603	1 501	1 206	1 566
Spare parts and equipment	1 395	1 645	1 679	1 621	2 161
Others	1 379	1 338	1 630	1 507	1 586
Total non energy commodities	25 522	27 329	28 538	27 604	33 985
Energy commodities	4 609	4 654	5 014	2 929	4 995
Crude oil and Natural gas	3 522	3 786	4 068	2 228	3 950
Coal	3 031	3 310	3 564	1 779	3 247
Fuels other than Crude oil, Natural gas and Coal	87	89	72	56	94
Energy commodities; Fuels other than Crude oil, Natural gas and Coal	403	387	432	393	610
Energy commodities; Energy commodities other than Fuels	1 088	868	946	701	1 045
Oils	1 088	868	946	701	1 045
Electricity	0	0	0	0	0
Other Imports	155	166	189	209	245
TOTAL IMPORTS /CIF/	30 286	32 148	33 740	30 743	39 225

Source: Bulgarian National Bank

Structure of imports by commodity groups in 2021

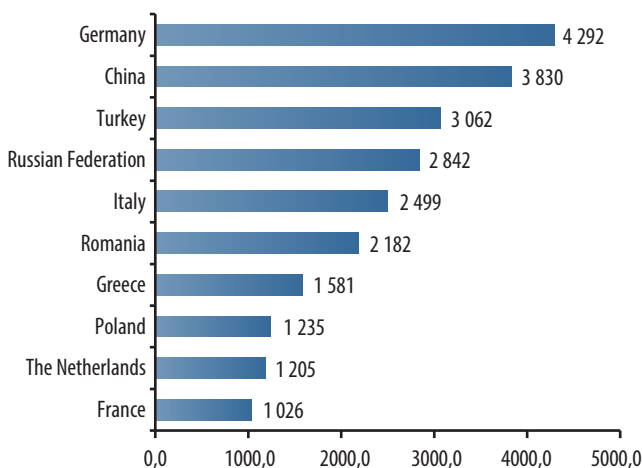
Million EUR



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

Imports from the TOP 10 Bulgarian trade partner countries in 2021

Million EUR

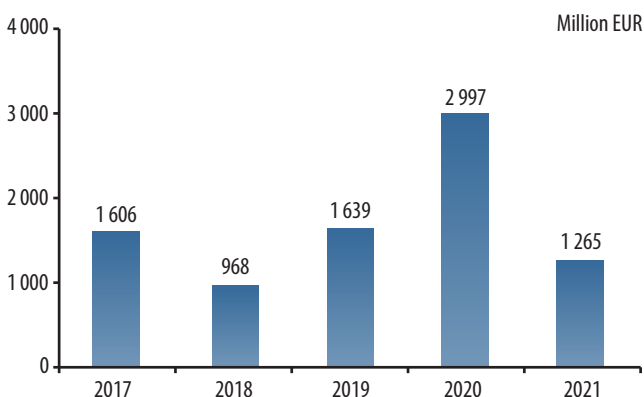


Source: Bulgarian National Bank

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

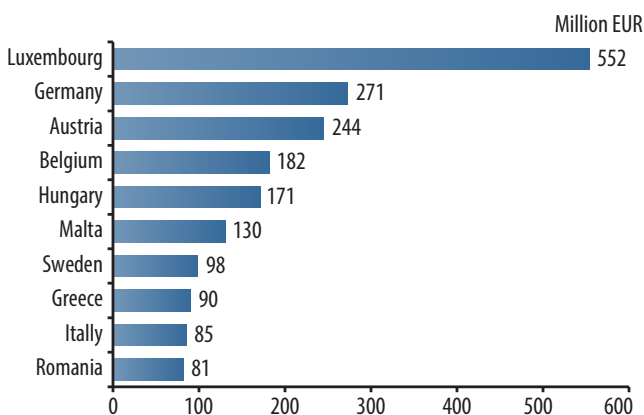
Foreign direct investment in Bulgaria reached EUR 1 265 million in 2021. The composition of FDI by country in 2021 suggests that foreign direct investment attracted from Luxembourg (EUR 552 million), the Germany (EUR 271 million) and the Austria (EUR 244 million) accounted for the largest shares.

Foreign direct investment flows in Bulgaria by years



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

Foreign direct investment flows in Bulgaria by geographical region



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

Foreign direct investment flows in Bulgaria by economic activity

Financial and insurance activities attracted about 61% of FDI flows in 2021, followed by Information and communication (20%) and Professional, scientific and technical activities (17%).

Million EUR

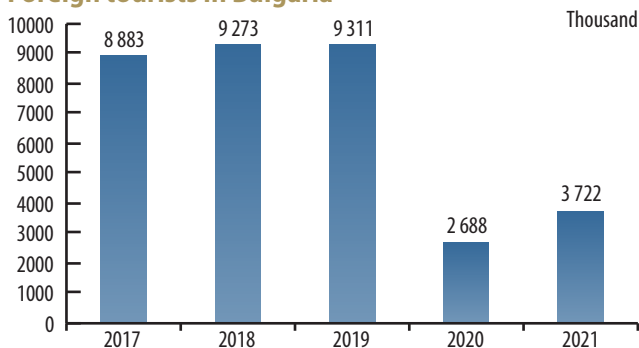
Year	2021
All FDI activities	1 265
Construction	-40,6
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	5,8
Mining and quarrying	48,7
Manufacturing	-55,0
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	55,0
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	-3,5
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	130,4
Transportation and storage	-78,9
Accommodation and food service activities	-2,7
Information and communication	258,2
Financial and insurance activities	771,4
Real estate activities	-48,8
Professional, scientific and technical activities	218,0
Administrative and support service activities	16,0
Education	-0,7
Human health and social work activities	1,7
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,9
Other service activities	-0,1
Not allocated	-11,8

Source: Bulgarian National Bank

TOURISM

Tourism plays an important role in Bulgaria because of its economic, social and employment potential. The number of international tourists is growing rapidly until 2019. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic put the sector to a severe test. In 2021, tourism in Bulgaria began to gradually recover due to the reduction of the spread of COVID-19 and the easing of restrictive measures.

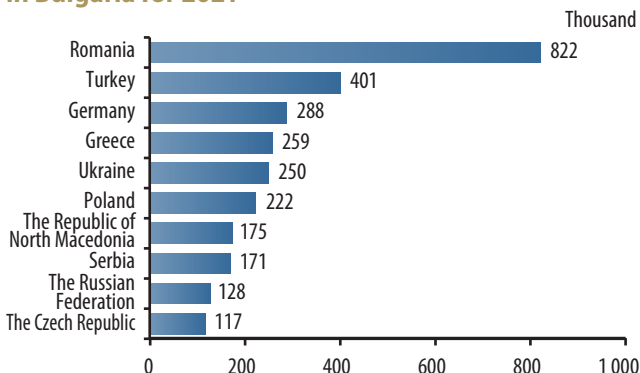
Foreign tourists in Bulgaria



Source: Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Bulgaria

In 2021, the number of tourists in our country is 3.7 million people. The number of tourist visits of foreigners in Bulgaria has increased by 38.5% compared to 2020, but the levels of tourist visits are far from the levels of 2019. The main driving force of the tourism sector in our country is the domestic travel, which is expected to continue in 2022, due to the uncertainty of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

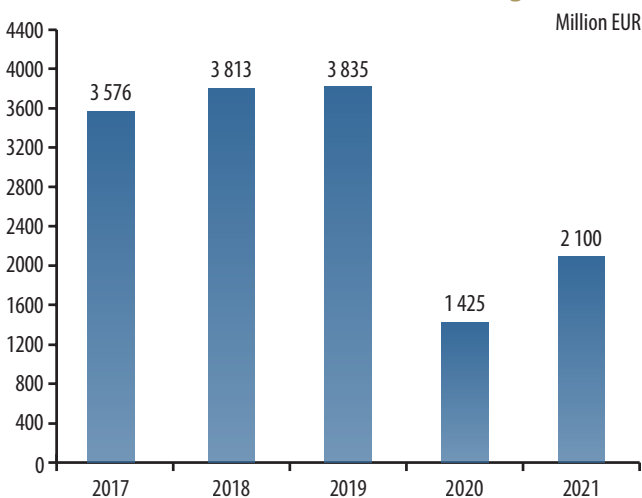
TOP 10 countries ranked by number of tourists in Bulgaria for 2021



Source: Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Bulgaria

The ranking by number of tourists for 2021 is headed by Romania with 822 thousand tourists, followed by Turkey with 401 thousand tourists, and Germany with 288 thousand tourists.

Revenue from international tourism in Bulgaria



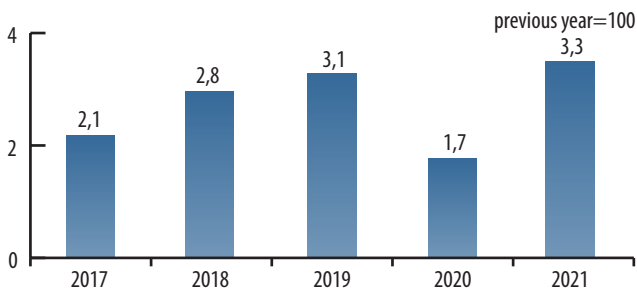
Source: Bulgarian National Bank

CONSUMER PRICES

Consumer price indices and annual inflation

In 2021 the average consumer price index was positive at +3.3%. Increased prices of all product groups had the contribution to the rise in the inflation with an exception of Clothing and Footwear, and Communication. The trend of increased inflation levels began in the 4th quarter of 2021, reaching 9.2% in January, 10% in February and 12.4% in March 2022.

Consumer price index (annual average inflation rates – %)



Source: National Statistical Institute

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

previous year=100

Main categories	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Average consumer price index (CPI)	2,1	2,8	3,1	1,7	3,3
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	4,0	2,2	5,2	5,4	2,8
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	1,5	3,4	2,2	1,6	0,8
Clothing and footwear	-1,4	-1,4	-0,7	-1,7	-1,1
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	3,2	4,6	3,9	1,0	4,8
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	-0,3	1,6	0,9	0,9	1,9
Health	0,2	0,2	1,3	2,8	0,8
Transport	3,7	4,9	0,0	-7,3	10,4
Communication	-2,6	2,6	-0,7	-1,4	-2,6
Recreation and culture	-2,5	3,5	4,5	0,6	5,8
Education	4,5	3,0	2,8	3,8	4,8
Restaurants and hotels	2,5	4,5	5,3	4,7	3,2
Miscellaneous goods and service	0,3	2,0	2,1	1,7	1,6

Source: National Statistical Institute

LABOUR MARKET

Labour force

According to the latest statistics, in 2021 the labor force in Bulgaria consisted of 3.2 million people – 54% men and 46% women.

The majority of the workforce (86%) has completed some forms of higher or upper secondary education.

Labour force

	Thousand				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	3 357	3 326	3 376	3 290	3 248
By sex					
Male	1 797	1 787	1 814	1 772	1 744
Female	1 560	1 539	1 562	1 518	1 503
By level of education					
Higher	1 021	1 021	1 030	1 053	1 028
Upper secondary	1 921	1 887	1 895	1 831	1 757
Lower secondary	349	346	372	337	314
Primary or lower	67	72	78	70	58

Source: National Statistical Institute

Employment

In 2021 the employment rate fell by -0.4% for second year, after six years of positive growth. The main reason for the changes was the pandemic of Covid-19. The number of employees decreased by 45 thousand people numbered 3.1 million. The largest share of employees is in private enterprises – 68%, followed by employees in the public sector - 21% and self-employed - 7%.

Employment

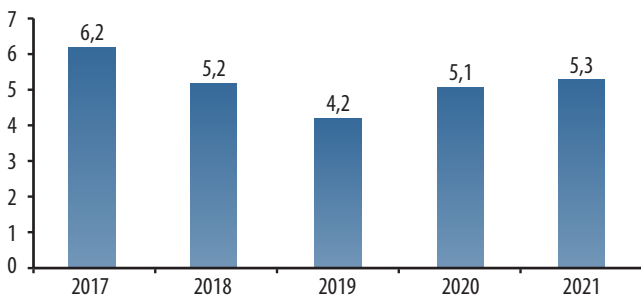
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Employment rate (15-64 years), %	66,9	67,7	70,1	68,5	68,1
	Thousand				
Total employment	3 150	3 153	3 233	3 122	3 077
Employees in private enterprises	2 102	2 114	2 199	2 091	2 080
Employees in public enterprises	674	672	684	685	658
Self-employed	235	227	215	215	208
Employers	115	117	115	112	113
Unpaid family workers	25	24	20	19	18

Source: National Statistical Institute

Unemployment

In 2019 the unemployment rate was at its lowest level in more than 30 years – 4.2%. Due to the extremely low levels of unemployment in our country and the inclusion of measures to preserve jobs, the impact of COVID 19 was less felt. Unemployment in 2021 remains at lower levels than the EU average – 5.3% for Bulgaria compared to 7.0% for the EU27.

Unemployment

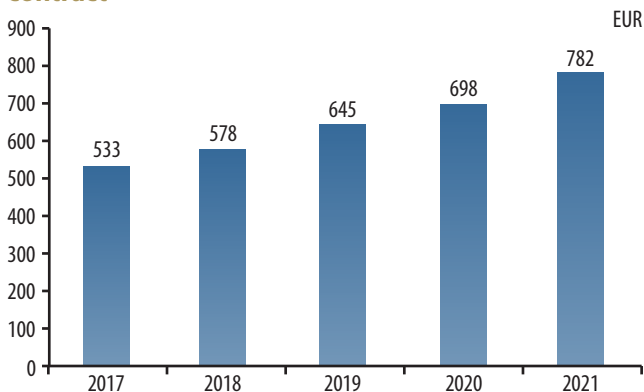


Source: National Statistical Institute

Average monthly salary

In 2021 average hourly labour costs recorded in Bulgaria (EUR 7) were more than 4 times lower than the EU average (EUR 29.1). Despite the economic and health crisis, wages in Bulgaria continue to rise. In 2021 the average monthly wage per employee in Bulgaria amounted to EUR 782, an increase in nominal terms by 12%.

Average monthly salary of employees by labor contract



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

EDUCATION

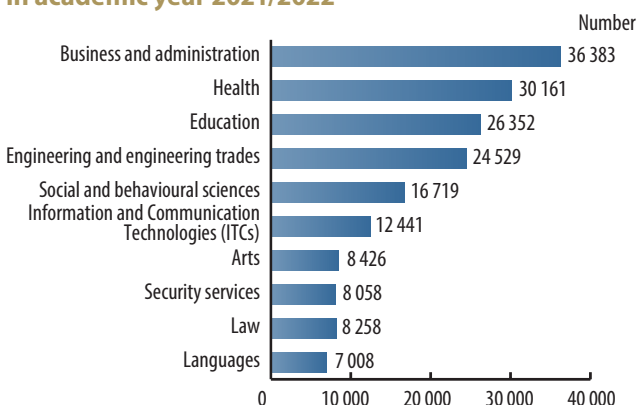
Higher education plays a crucial role for the development of intelligent and sustainable economy. Thanks to the efforts of the higher education institutions in the country, they continue to attract the most talented students. Bulgarian universities offer a wide range of specialties.

Higher schools by type

Academic year	Number
2021/22	
Total	54
Universities and equivalent higher schools	50
Colleges	21
- Independent colleges	4
- Colleges, at the universities and equivalent higher schools	17

The types of higher education institutions in Bulgaria are Universities and equivalent higher schools and Colleges. During the 2021/2022 academic year in the 54 educational institutions the total number of the students (in degrees 'Professional bachelor', 'Bachelor', 'Master' and 'PhD') is 220 439.

TOP 10 field of education by number of students in academic year 2021/2022



The most preferred fields of education (for all degrees) in Bulgaria are "Business and Administration" (17%), followed by "Health" (14%), "Education" (12%) and "Engineering and engineering trades" (11%). Universities in Bulgaria attract many international students due to excellent quality education, diploma recognised in EU/EEA and beyond, good level of costs and different programs in English, German and French.

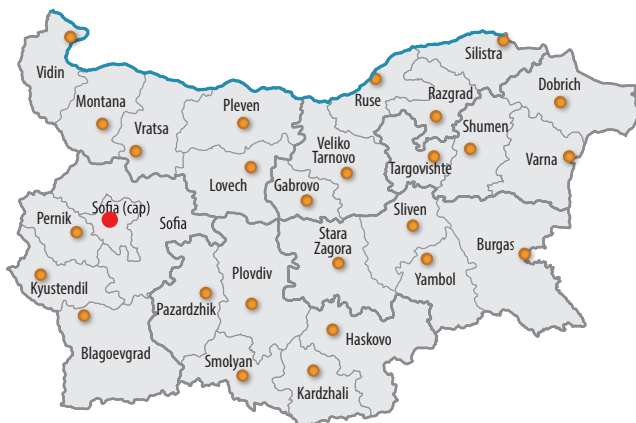


BULGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY – important facts and figures

- ▲ The BCCI is the leading employers' association in Bulgaria – comprising of over 56 000 members and representative offices, in which are employed with labor contract more than 690 thousand persons (32% of total employed in the 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 Organizations of Bulgarian Employers (AOBE) – a free union of the four employers' organizations that are officially acknowledged as representative according to the operating legislation.
- ▲ The BCCI is a universal organization in which all members are companies from various sectors and of different sizes, which comply with the Code of Business Ethics.
- ▲ 28 Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry and offices are united in the Unified System of Bulgarian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
- ▲ The BCCI participates in over 200 public-private bodies.
- ▲ BCCI has 244 local bodies in 217 municipalities.
- ▲ The 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, International Council on Cooperation, BSEC Business Council, Central European Initiative (CEI), GS1 International Association, Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce (SRCIC), Three Seas Initiative, etc.
- ▲ A Club of Joint and Foreign Chambers in Bulgaria with over 50 organizations operates at BCCI.
- ▲ The 88 Sectorial Organizations are united in a Council of Sectorial Organizations at the BCCI.
- ▲ At BCCI operates an Arbitration Court with more than 120 years of activity.

BULGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

127 years reliable partner and source
of information for entrepreneurs



The 28 Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry & offices

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

Structures and services



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



Additional information:

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

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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TRADE REGISTER AND MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORATE



Additional information:

<https://www.bcci.bg/tradereg-general-en1.html>

Main activities:

1. Trade Register Services
 - ▲ Registration in the voluntary Unified Trade Register of the BCCI of companies, organizations and other legal subjects;
 - ▲ Obligatory registration of commercial representative offices of foreign persons in Bulgaria;
 - ▲ Maintenance and updating of the information on file subject to registration;
 - ▲ Issuing of certificates and references in Bulgarian and foreign languages for the status and financial condition of the registered legal subjects;
 - ▲ Providing oral and written references in Bulgarian and foreign languages with data about the registered legal subjects.
2. Membership with BCCI.
3. Issuance and validation of documents:
 - ▲ Certificates of origin of goods; BCCI is the only organization in Bulgaria accredited by ICC WCF to issue certificates of origin. BCCI has a permit from the Bulgarian Customs Agency to issue non-preferential certificates of origin;
 - ▲ Validation of signatures.
4. Issuance and validation of ATA Carnets.
5. Issuance of Force-Majeure Certificates.
6. Assistance for validation of invitation-declarations for business trips of foreigners to the Republic of Bulgaria.
7. Assistance in obtaining information about the existence and current status of foreign companies.
8. BCCI offers services for issuance of personal and professional qualified electronic signature.
9. 28 Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry and offices.
10. Carrying out coordination with the sectorial organizations members of the Council of Sectorial Organisations with the BCCI.

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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/en-een.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 – 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.

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E-mail: mtancheva@bcci.bg



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.
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.

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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. 78% 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. 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: **Blagovest Punev, President**

Natalia Stefanova, Secretary of the Arbitration Court

Nina Nikolova, Secretary of the Arbitration Court

Tel.: (+359 2) 8117 434, 8117 546, 8117 561; Fax: (+359 2) 987 32 09

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, capture and share of key information about products, locations, assets and more. GS1 is best known for the barcode, named by the BBC as one of "the 50 things that made the world economy". The standards bring efficiency and transparency to the supply chain across physical and digital channels in 25 sectors.

GS1 Bulgaria brings together over 4000 Bulgarian companies - from international household names to small, local businesses. GS1 Bulgaria offers different services to its members including global synchronization of product data that helps companies to leverage their business.

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INDUSTRIAL ZONES of "National Company Industrial Zones"<http://www.nciz.bg/>

SOFIA-BOZHURISHTA ECONOMIC ZONE, Sofia
INDUSTRIAL AND LOGISTIC PARK – BURGAS, Burgas
FREE ZONE-RUSE, Ruse
INDUSTRIAL ZONE VIDIN, Vidin
INDUSTRIAL ZONE SVILENGRAD, Svilengrad
TRANSIT TRADE ZONE VARNA, Varna
INDUSTRIAL ZONE ZAGORE, Stara Zagora
INDUSTRIAL ZONE KARDZHALI, Kardzhali
INDUSTRIAL ZONE TELISH, Telish
VARNA WEST INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Suvorovo
INDUSTRIAL ZONE KARLOVO, Karlovo

OTHER INDUSTRIAL ZONES<http://www.bcci.bg/zones/>

INDUSTRIAL PARK – STRIMON, Simitli
INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK AITOS, Aitos
BURGAS INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Burgas
INDUSTRIAL ZONE “MEDEN RUDNIK”, Burgas
INDUSTRIAL ZONE “POBEDA”, Burgas
INDUSTRIAL ZONE “NORTH”, Burgas
INDUSTRIAL ZONE “SOUTH”, Burgas
BALGAROVO INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Balgarovo
DOBRICH BUSINESS ZONE, Dobrich
INDUSTRIAL ZONE “NORTH”, Dobrich
INDUSTRIAL ZONE “WEST”, Dobrich
GENERAL TOSHEVO INDUSTRIAL ZONE, General Toshevo
GABROVO INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Gabrovo
DIMITROVGRAD INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Dimitrovgrad
FREE ZONE - SVILENGRAD, Svilengrad
INDUSTRIAL ZONE KARDZHALI - SOUTH, Kardzhali
LETNITSA INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Letnitsa
TROYAN INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Troyan
TECHNOLOGY PARK, Montana
INDUSTRIAL PARK - PAZARDZHIK, Septemvri
INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Pernik
INDUSTRIAL PARK PERNIK - EAST, Pernik
INDUSTRIAL ZONE PERNIK, Pernik
INDUSTRIAL ZONE DOLNA MITROPOLIA, Dolna Mitropolia
INDUSTRIAL ZONE - PLEVEN, Pleven
TRAKIA ECONOMIC ZONE, Plovdiv
INDUSTRIAL PARK RHODOPES, Plovdiv
KRUMOVO LOGISTICS ZONE, Plovdiv
ASSENOVGRAD INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Asenovgrad
NORTH INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Plovdiv
PLOVDIV FREE ZONE, Plovdiv
INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ZONE KARADZHALOVO, Karadzhalovo
BUSINESS ZONE “PERISTAR” - RAZGRAD, Razgrad
RUSE EAST INDUSTRIAL PARK, Ruse
INDUSTRIAL PARK RUSE, Ruse
IVANOV INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Shtraklevo
KASPICHAN INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Kaspichan
SHUMEN INDUSTRIAL PARK, Shumen
DANUBE INDUSTRIAL PARK, Silistra
TCHAVDAR PARK BOTEVGRAD, Botevgrad
INDUSTRIAL PARK SOFIA, Sofia
INDUSTRIAL PARK SOFIA EAST, Elin Pelin
SAMOKOV INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Samokov
INDUSTRIAL PARK PROMOEEST BULGARIA, Sofia
INDUSTRIAL PARK WEST, Sofia
ELIN PELIN INDUSTRIAL PARK, Elin Pelin
GORNA MALINA INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Gorna Malina
INDUSTRIAL PARK - PETARCH, Petarch
STARA ZAGORA INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Elenino
INDUSTRIAL ZONE ZSK, Stara Zagora
TARGOVISHTA INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Targovishte
INDUSTRIAL ZONE VARNA - WEST, Devnya
FIRST INDUSTRIAL ZONE - AVREN, Avren
INDUSTRIAL ZONE VETRINO, Vetrino
SUVOROVO INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Suvorovo
INDUSTRIAL ZONE - SOUTH, STRAZHITSA, Strazhitsa
SVISHTOV INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Svishtov
VRATZA INDUSTRIAL ZONE, Vratza



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

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