



БЪЛГАРСКА ТЪРГОВСКО-ПРОМИШЛЕНА ПАЛАТА  
BULGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

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126 години надежден партньор

# BULGARIA IN FIGURES®

12<sup>th</sup>  
edition

126 years reliable partner

2021

**The brochure has been compiled  
by courtesy of:**

**National Statistical Institute,  
Bulgarian National Bank  
and InvestBulgaria Agency.**



## **Dear business partners,**

*For the twelfth consecutive year, the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) presents to your attention the brochure “Bulgaria in Figures”, which gathers the main macroeconomic indicators of the country and the assessment of a number of leading international organizations.*

*2020 caused numerous changes in the daily activities of companies and the way of communication between partners, but also created opportunities for quick introduction of new forms of employment and digitalization. In the same year, Bulgaria was accepted as a member of the ERM II exchange rate mechanism and the Banking Union, in preparation of its accession to the Euro area, and did not allow its taxes to increase. Along with maintaining relatively good macroeconomic indicators, it also received a good assessment of the prospects of the economy for this and next year.*

*BCCI has actively participated in the elaboration of all measures with constructive proposals for their amendment and supplementation on the basis of a series of surveys on the effect, consequences and impact of the pandemic on the business environment in the country. We have consistently encouraged companies to monitor the state of the sector in which they operate, to focus on digitalization and to limit actions that will unbearably increase their indebtedness. We will continue to work for the prevention of inappropriate measures, including for the proper targeting of EU funds in the new programming period and the National Recovery and Sustainability Plan, so as not to worsen Bulgaria’s position. We hope that the efforts to eliminate the weaknesses of the economic environment identified by various rankings, will be successful.*

*We will continue to provide information and consultations <https://www.bcci.bg/cbir-bcci.html>, to create contacts and cooperation <https://www.bcci.bg/international-en.html> at all stages of business, 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>.*

*With this publication we hope to once again give a clearer picture of the situation in Bulgaria so that the institutions and companies can take measures in the right direction.*

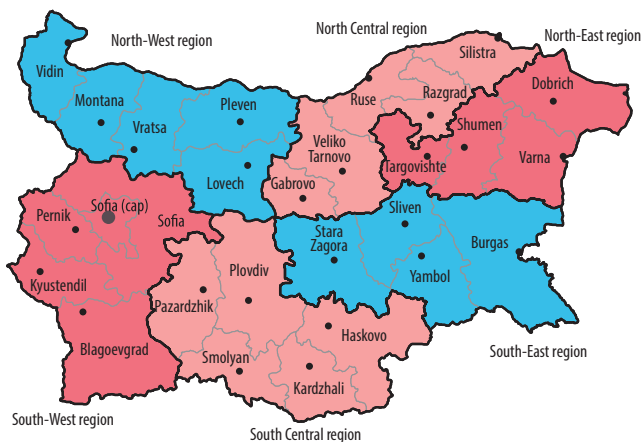
*BCCI remains at your disposal for assistance, consultations and research on any particular cases.*

*With the ambition to continue to create more security and resilience of local and foreign entrepreneurs in Bulgaria, 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:** 6 916 548 persons as of 31.12.2020

**Official language:** Bulgarian

**Religion:** Mostly Eastern Orthodox Christians

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

## 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% of GDP) as of 2020
- ▲ Business-friendly environment: Simple and low taxation
- ▲ Competitive operational costs and competitive labour level

## Main indicators – actual data

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
GDP (mill. EUR)	48 640	52 329	56 112	61 240	60 643
GDP real growth rate (%)	3,8	3,5	3,1	3,7	-4,2
Inflation (%)	-0,8	2,1	2,8	3,1	1,7
Government deficit/surplus (% of GDP)	0,1	1,2	2,0	2,1	-3,4
Exports (mill. EUR)	24 126	27 916	28 648	29 890	27 969*
Imports (mill. EUR)	26 181	30 286	32 148	33 740	30 730*
Employment rate (%)	63,4	66,9	67,7	70,1	68,5
Unemployment rate (%)	7,6	6,2	5,2	4,2	5,1

\*Preliminary data

Source: Eurostat, Bulgarian National Bank, National Statistical Institute

## Macroeconomic forecast

	2020	2021	2022
Real Gross Domestic Product (% change)	-4,2	3,5	4,7
Total Investment (% change)	-5,1	3,4	6,1
Employment growth (%)	-2,3	0,6	1,3
Unemployment rate (%)	5,1	4,8	3,9
Consumer-price inflation (%)	1,2	1,6	2,0
General government balance (% of GDP)	-3,4	-3,2	-1,9
General government gross debt (% of GDP)	25,0	24,5	24,0

Source: Spring 2021 Economic Forecast, European Commission

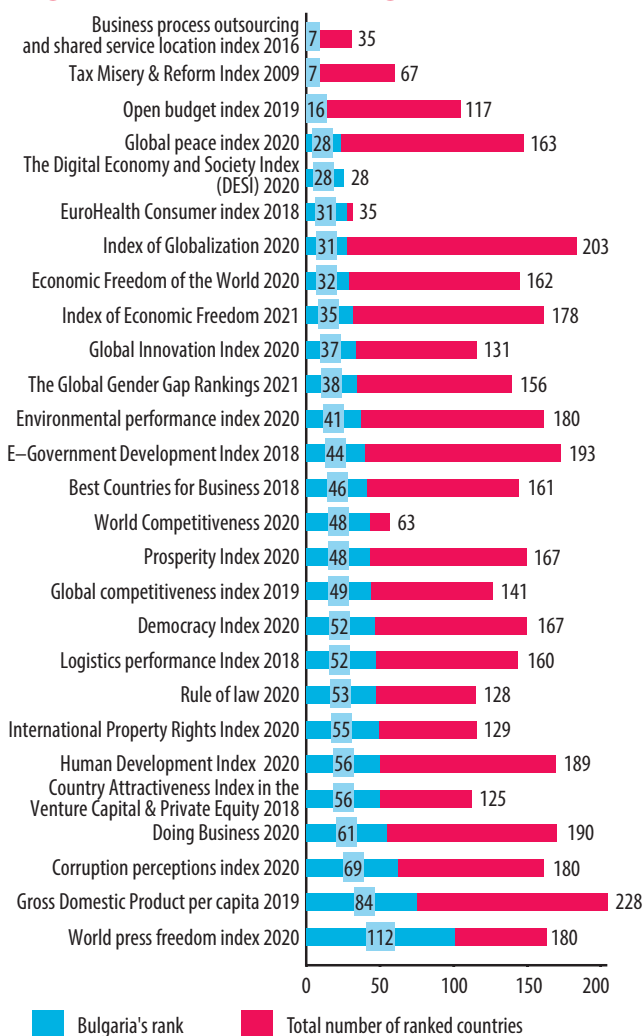
## BULGARIA IN THE INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

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.

For more information:

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

### Bulgaria in international rankings

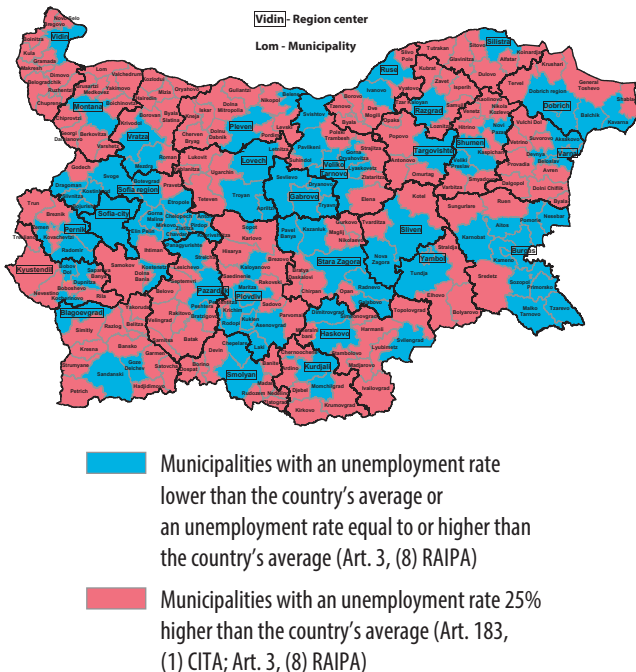


Source: Respective websites

## 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 12 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. In the middle of 2020 Bulgaria decided to reduce the VAT until 2021 on 9% for some products and services (children's goods, restaurant and catering services and books). In Bulgaria taxpayers are released from payment of corporate tax in regions with high unemployment rates. In 2019 about 2/3 of municipalities – 165 (of total 265 in Bulgaria) had 25% higher than the average rate of unemployment for the country and there is 0% corporate income tax.

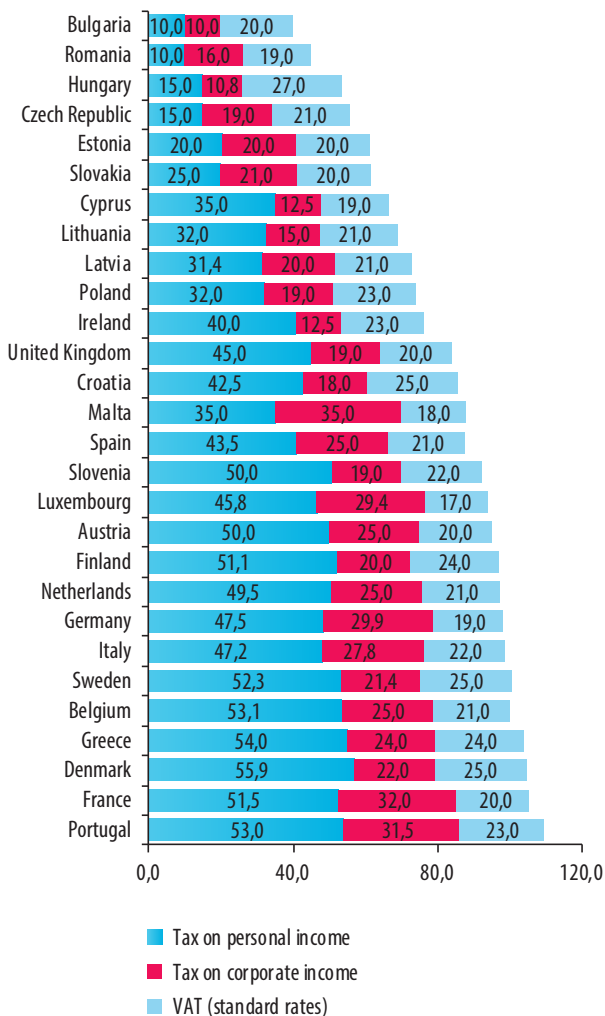
### Unemployment by municipalities – 0% corporate tax in regions shown in orange



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

Bulgaria is the third least tax burdened country in the EU as of 2020: The overall tax-to-GDP ratio in Bulgaria is 30.3% for 2019, compared to an EU average of 41.1%.

### Top statutory income tax rates and standard VAT rates (2020), %



Source: Eurostat

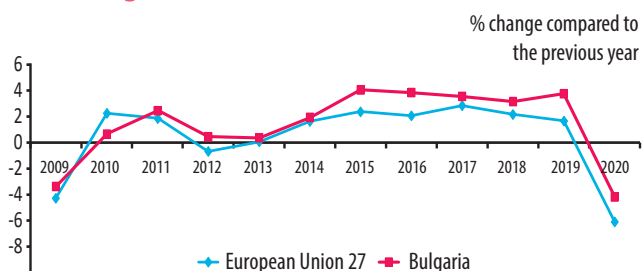


## GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

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. In 2019 real growth of GDP in Bulgaria reached 3.7%.

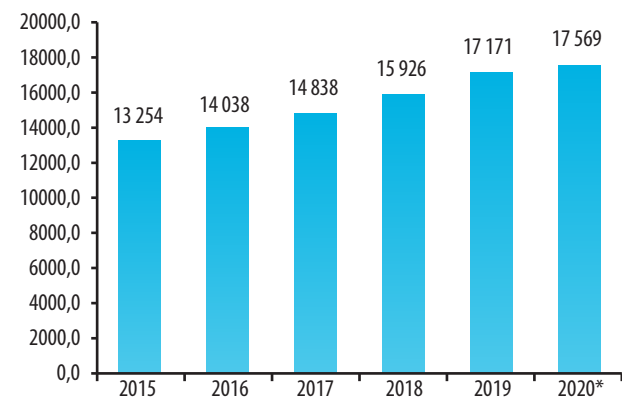
Growing domestic demand was the main driver for GDP and it is expected to remain in the next years. Unfortunately in 2020 Covid-19 created major changes in expectations for GDP levels. Bulgaria recorded a decline of -4.2% of GDP, while the average decline for the EU27 was 6.1% of GDP.

### Real GDP growth rate



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	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1 838	1 957	2 111	1 891	1 982	2 070
Mining, quarrying and manufacturing	9 091	10 130	10 829	10 506	10 877	11 375
Construction	1 727	1 642	1 862	2 032	2 362	2 555
Wholesale and retail trade	8 871	9 326	10 085	11 255	12 457	9 977
Information and communication	2 092	2 585	2 758	3 302	3 997	4 211
Financial and insurance activities	2 728	2 974	2 960	3 237	3 080	3 243
Real estate activities	3 859	3 988	4 514	5 144	5 489	5 374
Professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities	2 492	2 633	2 738	3 152	3 733	3 587
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security; education; human health and social work activities	5 737	5 629	6 270	7 015	7 624	8 992
Arts, entertainment and recreation, repair of household goods and other services	998	1 003	1 054	1 098	1 259	1 100
<b>Gross Value Added</b>	<b>39 433</b>	<b>41 868</b>	<b>45 182</b>	<b>48 633</b>	<b>52 289</b>	<b>52 483</b>
Adjustments (taxes less subsidies on products)	6 242	6 752	7 127	7 453	8 385	8 158
<b>Gross Domestic Product</b>	<b>45 675</b>	<b>48 620</b>	<b>52 309</b>	<b>56 086</b>	<b>60 674</b>	<b>60 642</b>

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

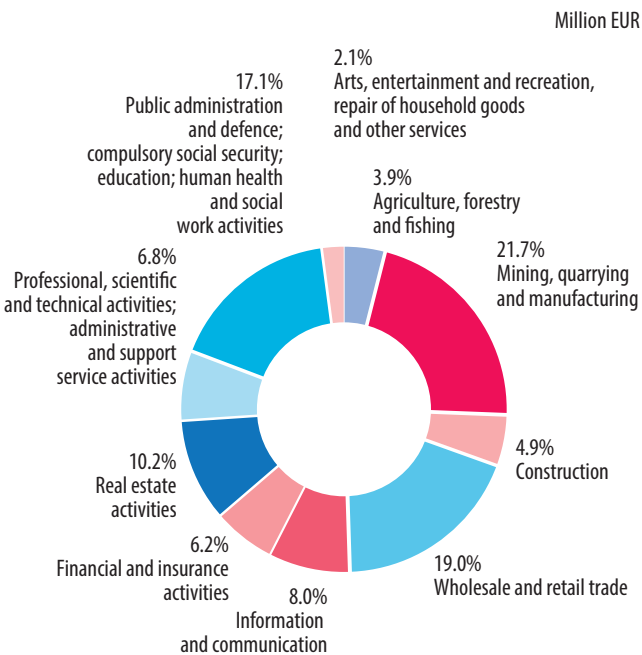


In 2020 Real Estate Activities and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing were the most important engines for the growth in the gross value added compared to 2019.

The sectors that reported the largest contribution to GDP in 2020 (share of 41%) 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 69.5% of the total GVA and Agriculture – 4%.

### Structure of Gross Value Added by economic sectors and economic activity groupings in 2020



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

## EXPORT

Exports make a strong contribution to GDP.

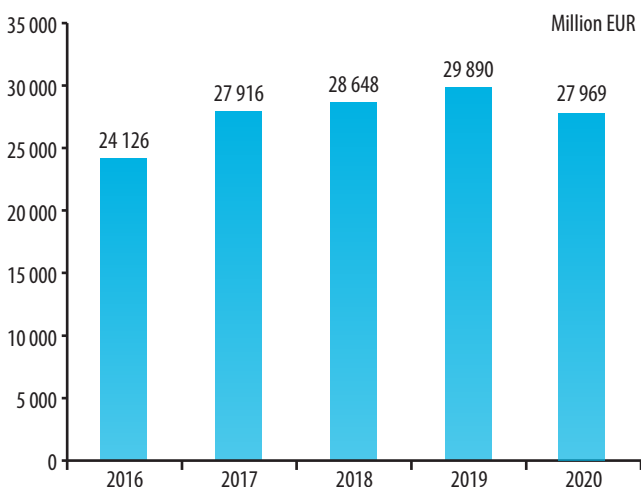
In 2020 it has decreased by over 6% compared to 2019 due to the direct impact of the development of the pandemic and the blocking of transport links for certain periods, which led to a delay in supplies. In 2020 the level of exports was at the level of 2017.

Exports (FOB) in 2020 amount to 28 billion euros. In almost all commodity groups there are nominal changes compared to 2019. Of all products, exports of cement, beverages and non-ferrous metals reported the highest growth compared to 2019.

Exports to Germany, Italy and Romania 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.

### Exports by years



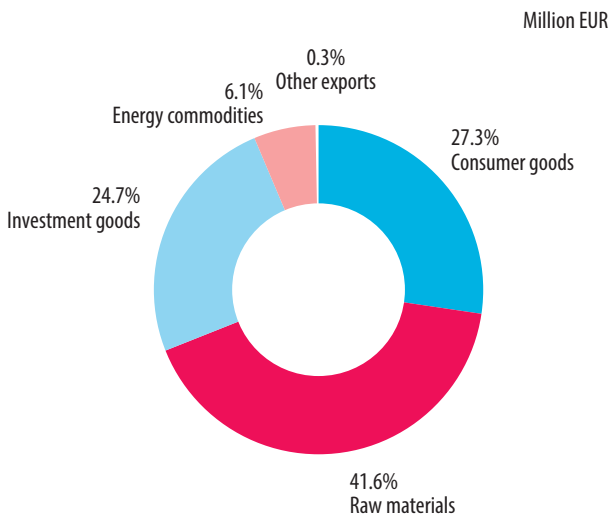
Source: Bulgarian National Bank

## Exports by commodity groups

Years	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Consumer goods</b>	<b>6 465</b>	<b>6 849</b>	<b>7 098</b>	<b>7 590</b>	<b>7 647</b>
Food	1 435	1 649	1 718	1 789	1 881
Tobacco	150	138	97	64	54
Beverages	97	102	114	179	210
Clothing and footwear	1 711	1 661	1 623	1 619	1 373
Medicines and cosmetics	1 007	1 103	1 134	1 264	1 337
Furniture and household appliances	1 039	1 087	1 130	1 227	1 274
Others	1 027	1 108	1 283	1 447	1 518
<b>Raw materials</b>	<b>9 394</b>	<b>10 878</b>	<b>11 385</b>	<b>11 682</b>	<b>11 644</b>
Iron and steel	403	536	676	608	534
Non-ferrous metals	1 808	2 821	2 759	2 327	2 555
Chemicals	326	422	463	488	436
Plastics and rubber	847	955	1 014	1 146	1 178
Fertilizers	220	214	190	236	158
Textiles	520	560	598	604	495
Raw materials for the food industry	2 064	1 893	1 973	2 333	2 254
Wood products, paper and paperboard	496	523	535	555	521
Cement	31	33	23	20	24
Raw tobacco	168	128	121	122	110
Others	2 512	2 794	3 033	3 242	3 380
<b>Investment goods</b>	<b>5 764</b>	<b>7 023</b>	<b>7 204</b>	<b>7 273</b>	<b>6 897</b>
Machines and equipment	1 334	1 558	1 671	1 865	1 737
Electrical machines	685	815	1 029	1 184	1 121
Vehicles	517	635	584	639	568
Spare parts and equipment	1 415	1 574	1 771	1 856	1 668
Others	1 814	2 441	2 148	1 729	1 805
<b>Total non energy commodities</b>	<b>21 623</b>	<b>24 750</b>	<b>25 687</b>	<b>26 546</b>	<b>26 188</b>
<b>Energy commodities</b>	<b>2 456</b>	<b>3 109</b>	<b>2 902</b>	<b>3 275</b>	<b>1 696</b>
Petroleum products	1 704	2 259	2 078	2 351	1 008
Others	753	850	823	924	688
<b>Other Exports</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS /FOB/</b>	<b>24 126</b>	<b>27 916</b>	<b>28 648</b>	<b>29 890</b>	<b>27 969</b>

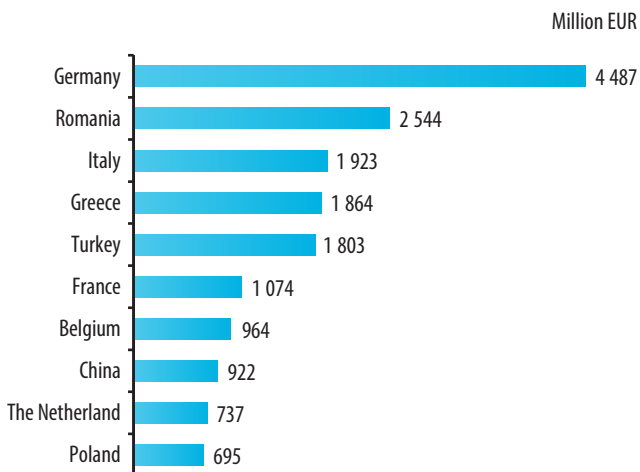
Source: Bulgarian National Bank

## Structure of exports by commodity groups in 2020



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

## Exports to the TOP 10 Bulgarian trade partner countries in 2020



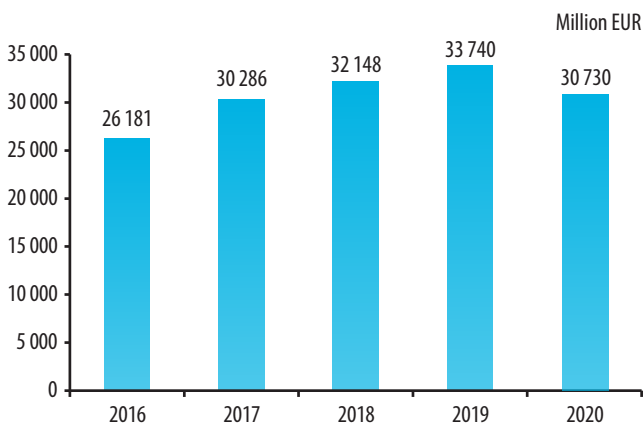
Source: Bulgarian National Bank

## IMPORT

Both exports and imports in 2020 notes a decline, amid an annual increase in the years before the pandemic. In 2020 the decrease in terms of imports is -9% compared to 2019. The levels of imports in 2020 amount to almost 31 billion EUR. The leading partners in terms of imports are Germany, China, Turkey, Italy and others.

Raw materials for the food industry has the largest growth in imports (over 28%), followed by Ores (over 20% increase).

### Imports by years



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

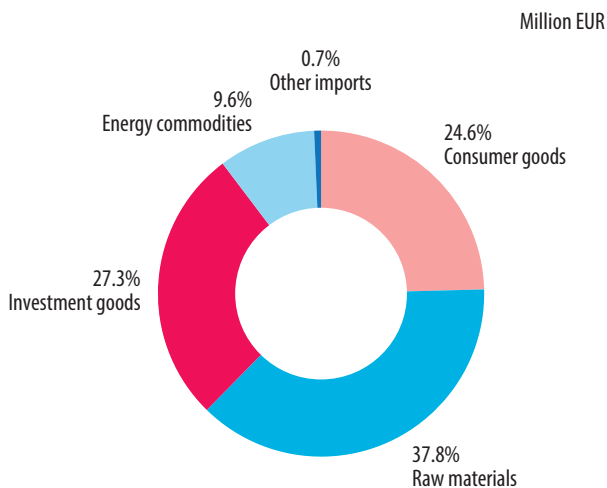
## Imports by commodity groups

Years	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Consumer goods</b>	<b>5 961</b>	<b>6 527</b>	<b>6 955</b>	<b>7 701</b>	<b>7 557</b>
Food, drinks and tobacco	1 879	2 087	2 231	2 542	2 590
Furniture and household appliances	766	823	896	1 032	1 019
Medicines and cosmetics	1 273	1 375	1 442	1 531	1 585
Clothing and footwear	760	800	830	906	799
Automobiles	398	481	491	499	393
Others	885	961	1 065	1 192	1 172
<b>Raw materials</b>	<b>9 425</b>	<b>11 159</b>	<b>11 811</b>	<b>11 735</b>	<b>11 604</b>
Ores	1 052	1 741	1 838	1 537	1 867
Iron and steel	796	1 024	1 208	1 211	1 030
Non-ferrous metals	678	964	979	894	853
Textiles	1 217	1 246	1 242	1 202	967
Wood products, paper and paperboard	547	577	627	648	608
Chemicals	608	692	743	766	748
Plastics and rubber	1 494	1 651	1 761	1 832	1 745
Raw materials for the food industry	692	744	702	845	1 078
Raw skins	92	79	77	72	52
Raw tobacco	85	88	85	79	58
Others	2 164	2 354	2 551	2 650	2 598
<b>Investment goods</b>	<b>7 121</b>	<b>7 837</b>	<b>8 562</b>	<b>9 102</b>	<b>8 402</b>
Machines and equipment	2 241	2 603	2 778	2 879	2 708
Electrical machines	1 069	1 088	1 199	1 414	1 361
Vehicles	1 320	1 371	1 603	1 501	1 206
Spare parts and equipment	1 199	1 395	1 645	1 679	1 623
Others	1 292	1 379	1 338	1 630	1 503
<b>Total non energy commodities</b>	<b>22 507</b>	<b>25 522</b>	<b>27 329</b>	<b>28 538</b>	<b>27 562</b>
<b>Energy commodities</b>	<b>3 535</b>	<b>4 609</b>	<b>4 654</b>	<b>5 014</b>	<b>2 959</b>
Crude oil and Natural gas	2 677	3 522	3 786	4 068	2 258
Coal	2 275	3 031	3 310	3 564	1 809
Fuels other than Crude oil, Natural gas and Coal	60	87	89	72	56
Energy commodities; Fuels other than Crude oil, Natural gas and Coal	342	403	387	432	392
Energy commodities; Energy commodities other than Fuels	858	1 088	868	946	701
Oils	858	1 088	868	946	701
Electricity	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other imports</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>209</b>
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS /CIF/</b>	<b>26 181</b>	<b>30 286</b>	<b>32 148</b>	<b>33 740</b>	<b>30 730</b>

Source: Bulgarian National Bank

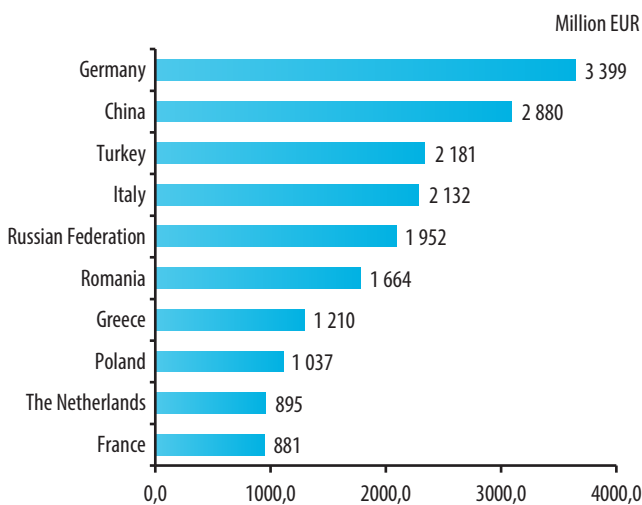


## Structure of imports by commodity groups in 2020



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

## Imports from the TOP 10 Bulgarian trade partner countries in 2020



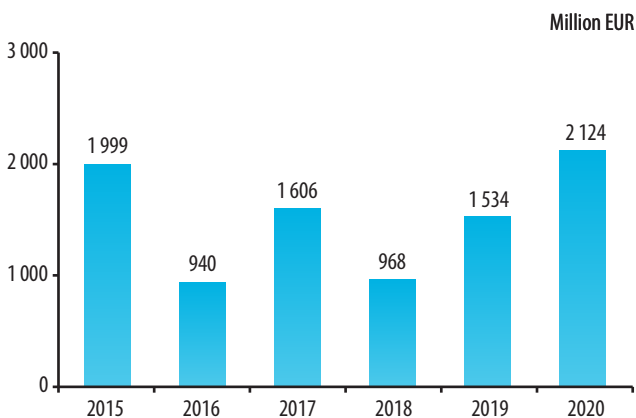
Source: Bulgarian National Bank

## FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

Foreign direct investment in Bulgaria reached EUR 2 124 million in 2020.

The composition of FDI by country in 2020 suggests that foreign direct investment attracted from Luxembourg (EUR 1 000 million), the Netherlands (EUR 394 million) and the Bahamas (EUR 349 million) accounted for the largest shares.

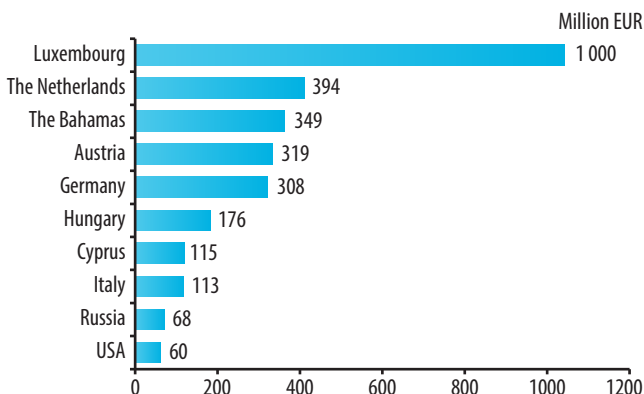
### Foreign direct investment flows in Bulgaria by years



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

### Foreign direct investment flows in Bulgaria by geographical region

Wholesale and retail trade and Real estate activities attracted about 70% of FDI flows in 2020.



Source: Bulgarian National Bank

## Foreign direct investment flows in Bulgaria by economic activity

Professional, scientific and technical activities and Financial and insurance activities attracted about 89% of FDI flows in 2020.

Million EUR

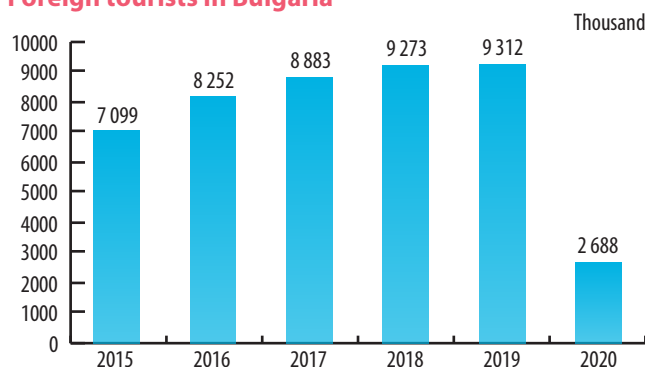
Year	2020
<b>All FDI activities</b>	<b>2 124</b>
Professional, scientific and technical activities	1 172
Financial and insurance activities	711,4
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	136,8
Transportation and storage	136,6
Construction	64,7
Manufacturing	54,9
Real estate activities	16,6
Administrative and support service activities	15,8
Mining and quarrying	15,4
Not allocated	12,1
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	7,0
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	3,9
Other service activities	1,7
Education	0,7
Human health and social work activities	-0,5
Arts, entertainment and recreation	-7,1
Accommodation and food service activities	-12,8
Information and communication	-41,4
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	-163,4

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 Bulgaria, tourism with small breaks continued to function throughout 2020 but with significantly reduced capacities.

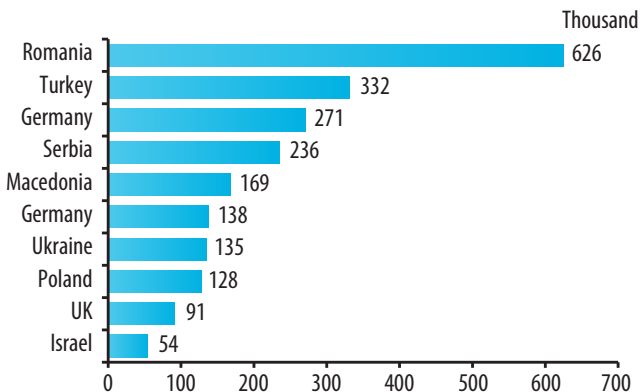
### Foreign tourists in Bulgaria



Source: Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Bulgaria

In 2020, the number of tourists in our country is 2 688 million people. The number of tourist visits of foreigners in Bulgaria has decreased by 71% compared to 2019.

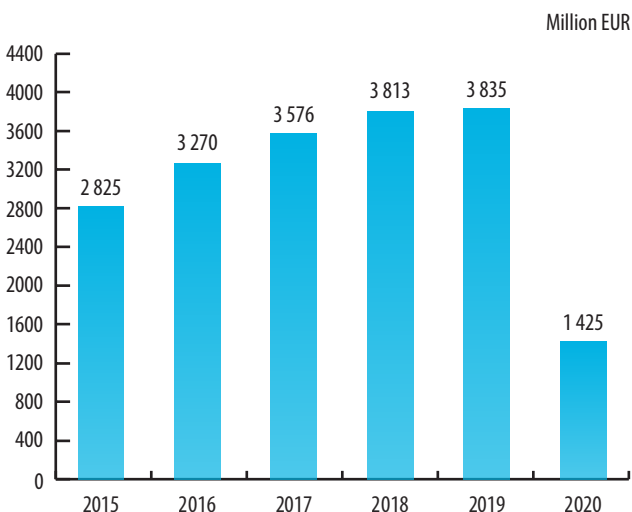
### TOP 10 countries ranked by number of tourists in Bulgaria for 2020



Source: Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Bulgaria

The ranking by number of tourists for 2020 is headed by Romania with 626 thousand tourists, followed by Turkey with 332 thousand tourists, and Greece with 271 thousand tourists.

### Revenue from international tourism in Bulgaria



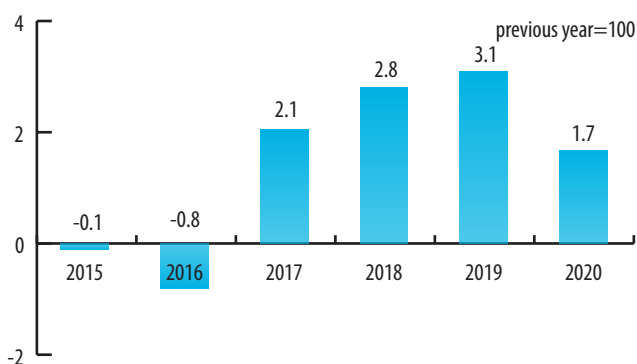
Source: Bulgarian National Bank

## CONSUMER PRICES

### Consumer price indices and annual inflation

In 2020 the average consumer price index was positive at +1.7%. Increased prices of all product groups had the contribution to the rise in the inflation with an exception of Transport, Clothing and Footwear, and Communication.

#### Consumer price index (annual average inflation rates – %)



Source: National Statistical Institute

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

Main categories	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Average consumer price index (CPI)</b>	<b>-0,1</b>	<b>-0,8</b>	<b>2,1</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>3,1</b>	<b>1,7</b>
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0,3	-0,2	4,0	2,2	5,2	5,4
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0,8	2,0	1,5	3,4	2,2	1,6
Clothing and footwear	0,6	-0,5	-1,4	-1,4	-0,7	-1,7
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	3,4	0,0	3,2	4,6	3,9	1,0
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	-0,4	-1,5	-0,3	1,6	0,9	0,9
Health	-1,6	-0,2	0,2	0,2	1,3	2,8
Transport	-9,1	-6,4	3,7	4,9	0,0	-7,3
Communication	-3,1	-3,7	-2,6	2,6	-0,7	-1,4
Recreation and culture	2,8	-0,5	-2,5	3,5	4,5	0,6
Education	2,7	2,7	4,5	3,0	2,8	3,8
Restaurants and hotels	1,1	1,4	2,5	4,5	5,3	4,7
Miscellaneous goods and service	-0,2	-1,2	0,3	2,0	2,1	1,7

Source: National Statistical Institute

# LABOUR MARKET

## Labour force

According to the latest statistics, in 2020 the labor force in Bulgaria consisted of 3.3 million people - 54% men and 46% women.

The majority of the workforce (89%) has completed some forms of higher or higher secondary education.

### Labour force

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	Thousand				
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 264</b>	<b>3 357</b>	<b>3 326</b>	<b>3 376</b>	<b>3 290</b>
<b>By sex</b>					
Male	1 749	1 797	1 787	1 814	1 772
Female	1 515	1 560	1 539	1 562	1 518
<b>By level of education</b>					
Higher	1 014	1 020	1 021	996	1 053
Upper secondary	1 849	1 921	1 887	1 848	1 831
Lower secondary	339	349	346	357	337
Primary or lower	62	67	72	76	70

Source: National Statistical Institute

## Employment

In 2020 the employment rate fell by -1.6% after six years of positive growth. The main reason for the changes was the pandemic of Covid-19. The number of employees decreased by 111 thousand people numbered 3.1 million. The largest share of employees is in private enterprises - 67%, followed by employees in the public sector -22% and self-employed 7%.

### Employment

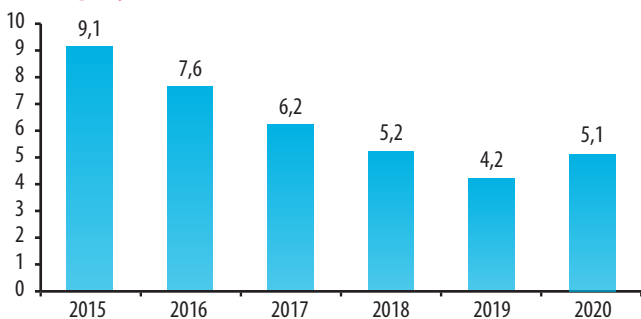
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Employment rate (15-64 years), %	<b>63,4</b>	<b>66,9</b>	<b>67,7</b>	<b>70,1</b>	<b>68,5</b>
	Thousand				
<b>Total employment</b>	<b>3017</b>	<b>3150</b>	<b>3153</b>	<b>3233</b>	<b>3122</b>
Employees in private enterprises	1982	2102	2114	2199	2091
Employees in public enterprises	681	674	672	684	685
Self-employed	228	235	227	215	215
Employers	107	115	117	115	112
Unpaid family workers	19	25	24	20	19

Source: National Statistical Institute

## Unemployment

In 2019 the unemployment rate was at its lowest level in more than 30 years. 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 2020 remains at lower levels than the EU average - 5.1% for Bulgaria compared to 7.1% for the EU27.

### Unemployment

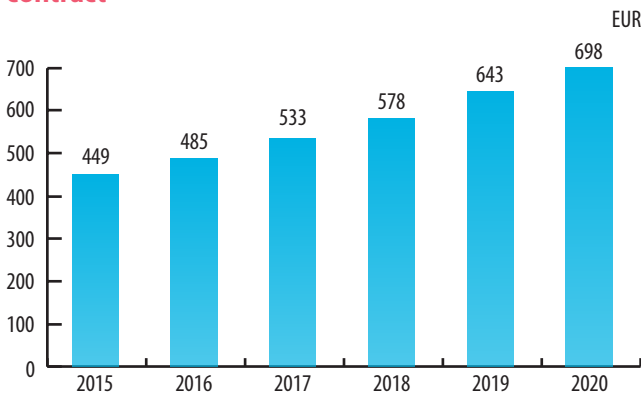


Source: National Statistical Institute

## Average monthly salary

In 2020 average hourly labour costs recorded in Bulgaria (EUR 6.5) were more than 4 times lower than the EU average (EUR 28.5). Despite the economic and health crisis, wages in Bulgaria continue to rise. In 2020 the average monthly wage per employee in Bulgaria amounted to EUR 698, an increase in nominal terms by 9%.

### Average monthly salary of employees by labor contract



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

## EDUCATION

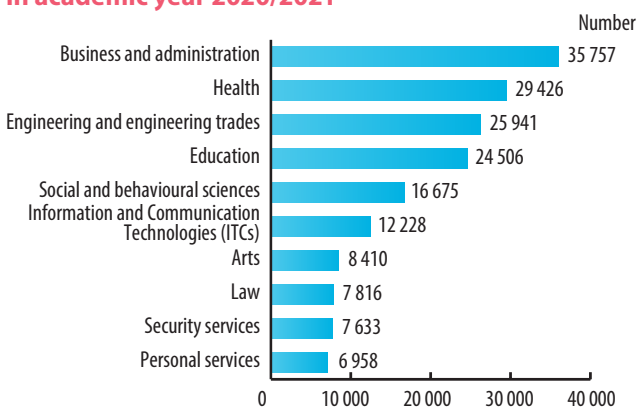
Higher education plays a crucial role for the development of intelligent and sustainable economy. Thanks to the efforts of the higher education institutions in the country, they continue to attract the most talented students. Bulgarian universities offer a wide range of specialties.

### Higher schools by type

Academic year	Number
<b>2020/21</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>
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 2020/2021 academic year in the 54 educational institutions the total number of the students (in degrees 'Professional bachelor', 'Bachelor', 'Master' and 'PhD') is 219 791.

### TOP 10 field of education by number of students in academic year 2020/2021



The most preferred fields of education (for all degrees) in Bulgaria are "Business and Administration" (16%), followed by "Health" (13%) and "Engineering and engineering trades" (12%).

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.



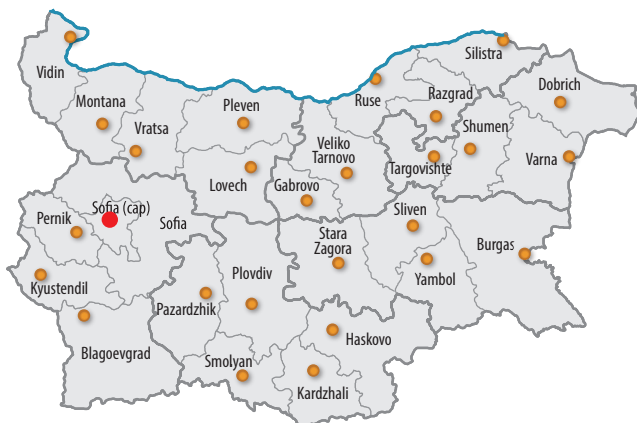


## **BULGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY – important facts and figures**

- ▲ 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 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, Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), 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 84 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

126 years reliable partner and source  
of information for entrepreneurs



The 28 Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry

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

### Structures and services



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

**i** 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 Unified voluntary 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. Excellent SME certificate.
10. Carrying out coordination and keeping constant relations with the 28 Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry (RCCI).
11. 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

**i** 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. Supporting the development and strengthening of the SMEs.
4. Enterprise Europe Network is the largest information and consulting network in the world that helps SMEs to take advantage of business opportunities in the EU single market, to increase their competitiveness in Europe and find reliable technology, business and project partners.
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](mailto:mtancheva@bcci.bg)



## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTORATE

**i** 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.

For Contacts: **Gabriela Dimitrova, Director**

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E-mail: [interdpt@bcci.bg](mailto:interdpt@bcci.bg), [G.Dimitrova@bcci.bg](mailto:G.Dimitrova@bcci.bg)



## ARBITRATION COURT AT BCCI

**i** 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. Possibility to include foreign arbitrators, if the company has more than 50% foreign capital.
4. 98% of the cases are solved within 12 months period.
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](mailto:acourt@bcci.bg)



## GS1 BULGARIA

**i** 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.

For Contacts: **Tzveta Bratanova, CEO**

Tel.: (+359 2) 8117 604

E-mail: [gs1bulgaria@gs1bg.org](mailto:gs1bulgaria@gs1bg.org)

**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 ZAGORA**, 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  
**IVANOVO 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 PROMOEST 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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