Shumen District

▶ Population (2015)	176,323
▶ Area (sq. km)	3,389.7
▶ Number of settlements	152
▶ Share of urban population (%)	61.9

Map labels: KAOLINOVO, Venets, Nikola Kozlevo, Hitrino, NOVI PAZAR, SHUMEN, KASPICHAN, VELIKI PRESLAV, Varbitsa, SMYADOVO
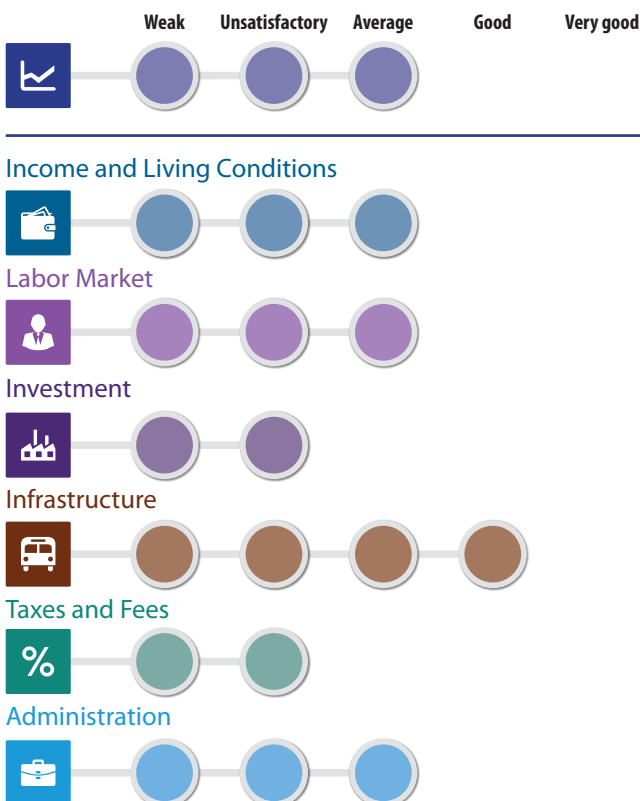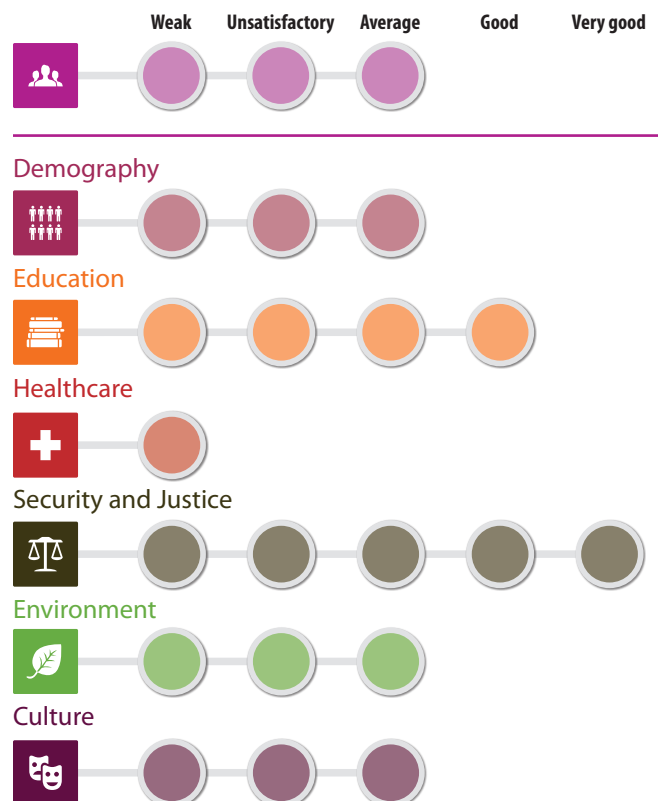
Overview

After a drop in Shumen's GDP in 2009, the latter started growing again, but in 2014 GDP per capita in the district remained considerably below the national average level. That was related to a considerable extent to the lag in foreign and domestic investment in the district, despite the relatively good utilization of EU funds. Shumen also remained among the districts with the highest unemployment rates, relatively high economic activity, low employment rates, and unfavorable educational structure of the workforce. Shuman is the district with the highest share of motorways and first class roads.

Though the population is ageing in the country as a whole, the demographic picture in Shumen district remains relatively better. Low results at the matriculation exams in Bulgarian language and literature remain a problem in education, and the shortage of doctors remains a problem in healthcare. On the other hand, Shumen has positive ratings for security and justice due to the relatively small number of registered crimes, their high clearance rate, and the speedy closure of criminal cases. Shumen is among the districts with the highest number of visits to museums and libraries relative to the population.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

	Weak	Unsatisfactory	Average	Good	Very good
	●	●	●		
Income and Living Conditions	●	●	●		
Labor Market	●	●	●		
Investment	●	●			
Infrastructure	●	●	●	●	
Taxes and Fees	●	●			
Administration	●	●	●		

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

	Weak	Unsatisfactory	Average	Good	Very good
	●	●	●		
Demography	●	●	●		
Education	●	●	●	●	
Healthcare	●				
Security and Justice	●	●	●	●	●
Environment	●	●	●		
Culture	●	●	●		

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ● ● ●

Income and Living Conditions ● ● ●

Similar to processes in the entire country, the district of Shumen has also suffered from the crisis. After its GDP per capita dropped in 2009, it grew at a stable rate but in 2014, it remained considerably below the national average level: 7,376 BGN per capita vs. 11,574 BGN per capita nationally. Incomes and salaries in the district have continued to lag behind national average levels despite being raised every year.

The share of incomes from salaries (52%) has been relatively lower than the national average of 57% due to incomes additional to the salary, for example, those coming from contract payments (9% in the district vs. 3% nationally). The share of incomes from social security and child support is higher in the district mainly because of the high unemployment, the relatively low incomes, and the high share of poor people.

Labor Market ● ● ●

The district of Shumen has remained among those with the highest unemployment levels. In 2015, the unemployment rate was 19.7% (vs. 9.1% nationally) and the only district with a higher rate was Silistra. A possible explanation can be found in the population's educational structure. A relatively small part of the active population had higher education, while a great part had primary and lower education. Employment levels (58.5%) have stayed below national average levels of 62.9%.

In 2015, the ratio of demographic replacement in the district (69.7%) continued to be higher than the national average of 63.5%, which implies that about 70 young people are to replace 100 people leaving the labor market.

Investment ● ●

Domestic and foreign investment in the district was still seriously lagging behind the national average levels. Towards the end of 2014 cumulative foreign investment in the district was below 600 euro per capita (vs. 3,000 euro per capita nationally). The number of enterprises also stayed small: 38 non-financial enterprises per 1,000 people in the district vs. 53 per 1,000 people in the country.

For the last couple of years, however, local administrations in the district have achieved results considerably above average levels in EU fund utilization. As of 31 May 2016, payments to municipalities as beneficiaries of operational programs were 788.8 BGN per capita (vs. 688.8 BGN nationally). In Shumen district, most funds relative to the population have been utilized by the municipalities of Novi Pazar and Veliki Preslav, while Kaolinovo, Varbitsa, and Hitrovo have utilized least funds.

Infrastructure ● ● ● ●

The density of the road and railway networks in the district is above average. Shumen is also the district with the highest share of motorways and first class roads from the national road network: 36% (vs. 18% nationally). In 2015 and early in 2016, a considerable portion of the "Hemus" motorway was repaired as part of the territory of the district. Road surface quality was also above national average levels: in 2015, 42.5% of roads were in good condition (vs. 40.7% nationally).

Internet access and usage are also above national average levels.

Taxes and Fees ● ●

On the whole, the average rates of local taxes and fees in Shumen district were not significantly different from national levels in 2016. The biggest variance was in the license tax for retailers, the district average level of which was lower by about 1/3 than the national average rate. Even in the municipality of Shumen, which had the highest tax rate in the district (12 BGN/sq. m) the license tax for retailers was below the average of 13 BGN/sq. m for the country. The same tax had its lowest rate in the municipalities of Nikola Kozlevo and Varbitsa.

Between 2015 and 2016 the municipality of Varbitsa raised the rates of four of the five monitored local taxes and fees, whereas the municipalities of Veliki Preslav and Novi Pazar raised only one. There was no reduction of taxes and fees in the district, though in the country almost 1/5 of the changes concerning taxation were in the form of reduction.

Administration ● ● ●

While in 2014 about half the territory of the Shumen municipality was covered by cadastral maps, in 2015, the cadastral map had already covered it entirely. Part of the Kaspichan municipality was also covered. This raised the district's cadastral map coverage by more than 10 pp to reach 30% of the territory, while the national average was below 20%.

Ratings for the development of electronic government and one-stop shop services went up in 2016. Nevertheless, municipalities in the district were lagging in offering one-stop shop services. In 2016 the local administration was once again rated as one of the least transparent with 39.0% (vs. 54.2% in the country). The most "transparent" municipalities were those of Kaolinovo and Smyadovo with 48.0% each, but even they failed to reach the national average figure. On the other hand, the rating of the municipalities of Venets and Novi Pazar was below 30%.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ● ● ●

Demography ● ● ●

The district's demographic picture has stayed relatively good compared to the overall picture in the country. In 2015, the age dependence ratio (presented as the ratio of the population over 65 to that under 14) was 139.9% (vs. 146.4% nationally). The population ageing processes are going faster than the national average rate after 2009, which points to future deterioration of the district's demographic profile.

The natural growth rate was below the national average in the last two years. In 2012 and 2013, the district was among the few districts with a positive net migration rate but in the last two years it was already negative, reaching −0.3‰ in 2015 vs. −0.1‰ in 2014.

A relatively large part of the population lives in villages, and the population density is below the national average.

Education ● ● ● ●

The traditional net enrolment rate of the population in 5th–8th grade in the district has been higher than the national average, though in recent years there has been some decline. The shares of repeaters and dropouts from primary and secondary education have been relatively low; they shrank in the last year of monitoring (respectively, 2014 and 2015). School leavers in the district performed below average at the matriculation exam in Bulgarian language and literature.

Shumen University played a significant role in the district's good performance for the number of university graduates relative to the population. On the other hand, the share of university graduates among the population aged 25 to 64 was below average, which shows that probably part of the young people choose not to stay in the district after graduating.

Healthcare ●

Though the number of general practitioners relative to the district's population is high, there is still a shortage of specialist doctors in the district of Shumen. In 2015, one medical specialist took care of 770 people in the district (743 in 2014) in contrast to the national average of 544. On the other hand, the district was one of the three districts with the smallest number of beds in general hospitals relative to the population (after Pernik and Dobrich), which shows unsatisfactory material conditions for medical care as well.

The combination of insufficient specialists and limited hospital beds could explain the relatively small number of hospitalizations: 148 per 1,000 people (vs. 232 per 1,000 people nationally) in 2015. The most likely reason was that people went outside the district looking for healthcare.

Security and Justice ● ● ● ● ●

Shumen was among the districts with low crime rates and high clearance crime rates relative to the population. In 2015, 9.4 crimes against the person and property per 1,000 people were registered in the district (vs. 13.6 per 1,000 people nationally). The share of solved crimes rose that year to reach 55.1% (vs. 39.2% nationally).

As a result of the low crime rate, the workloads of the judges in the district court were relatively low, while the speed of justice administration was better than the national average. The share of criminal cases solved within three months reached 96.0% (vs. 88.1% in the country) and that of pending criminal cases dropped to 6.8% (vs. 9.4% nationally).

Environment ● ● ●

The level of carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere in the district of Shumen remained several times lower than the national average. In 2014, the emissions in the district were 29.1 t/sq. km vs. 341.5 t/sq. km in the country.

Despite the relatively clean air, environment protection in the district suffers from the low connectivity to sewerage and WWTPs. In 2014, 59.3% of the population of the district of Shumen lived in areas with public sewerage systems (vs. 74.9% nationally), while 44.7% had access to sewerage systems connected to WWTPs (vs. 56.8% nationally).

Culture ● ● ●

After several years without a cinema in the district, a cinema house opened in Shumen in 2014. Thus almost 140 visits per 1,000 people were registered in the district for the last two years. That value, however, remained far below the average cinema visits in the country – 744 per 1,000 people in 2015. Visits to the theater were also fewer in the district than the average figure for Bulgaria – 227 per 1,000 people in the district vs. 302 per 1,000 people in the country.

In 2015, a considerable increase in museum visits was registered in the district of Shumen: 28% compared to 2014. Shumen was thus one of the districts with the largest number of museum visits relative to the population: 1,018 visits per 1,000 people (vs. 664 in the country). The Regional Historical Museum in Shumen registered a great number of tourists, who were also attracted by the newly found well in Pliska, which was proclaimed sacred. In 2015, Shumen was also among the participants in the "European Museum Night" initiative. Visits to libraries also marked an impressive figure: 891 per 1,000 people (vs. 583 nationally) in 2015.

Key Indicators for the District of Shumen

Indicators of economic development	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
GDP per capita (BGN, current prices)	5,832	6,624	7,006	7,243	7,376	n.a.
Average annual income per household member (BGN)	3,208	3,427	3,944	4,333	4,387	4,772
Average annual gross salary (BGN)	6,214	6,499	7,068	7,405	7,968	n.a.
Relative share of people living below the national poverty line (%)	27.8	27.5	30.1	25.0	n.a.	n.a.
Annual average economic activity rate of the population aged 15 to 64 (%)	72.2	73.9	75.0	74.7	74.7	73.0
Annual average employment rate of the population aged 15 to 64 (%)	51.3	53.9	54.9	55.1	58.7	58.5
Annual average unemployment rate of the population aged 15 to 64 (%)	28.8	26.8	26.6	26.0	21.1	19.7
Relative share of the population aged 25 to 64 with tertiary education (%)	18.8	20.4	20.7	21.3	24.2	24.0
Number of non-financial enterprises per 1,000 people	38	36	37	37	38	n.a.
Expenditure on the acquisition of fixed tangible assets per capita (BGN)	786	1,069	1,429	1,333	1,499	n.a.
Cumulative FDI to non-financial enterprises per capita (EUR)	459	506	590	612	595	n.a.
Relative share of households with internet access (%)	25.2	33.7	44.7	49.8	48.2	65.6
Share of roads in good condition (%)	30.1	18.9	19.0	36.3	35.1	42.5
Share of territory included in cadastral maps (%)	19.8	19.8	19.8	19.8	19.8	30.0

Indicators of social development	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Rate of natural increase (‰)	−4.6	−4.8	−5.7	−4.6	−6.3	−6.5
Net migration rate (‰)	−5.2	−1.0	0.4	0.4	−0.1	−0.3
Average grades at state matriculation exams	4.0	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.0
Percent of failed students at state matriculation exams ("average" 3.00)	9.7	7.6	8.9	8.1	8.9	6.7
Net enrolment rate of the population in 5th–8th grade (%)	82.0	85.7	84.4	82.4	81.3	80.0
Health insured persons as share of the population (%)	84.7	89.6	88.4	87.5	88.1	89.6
Cases of hospitalization in general hospitals per 1,000 people	117	124	133	148	152	148
Registered crimes against the person and property per 1,000 people	11.4	11.8	10.7	10.3	9.0	9.4
Clearance rates for crimes against the person and property registered during the year (%)	55.1	54.0	54.7	54.5	51.4	55.1
Share of pending criminal cases (%)	4.2	4.7	5.4	6.5	10.3	6.8
Share of the population living in settlements with public sewerage systems, connected to WTTP (%)	44.8	44.8	44.8	44.8	44.7	n.a.
Carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere (t/km2)	23.7	29.5	26.1	29.2	29.1	n.a.
Number of visits to cinemas per 1,000 people	13	12	0	0	135	137
Number of visits to theatres per 1,000 people	93	149	176	166	245	227