

Dobrich



Population (2013)	185 562
Area (sq. km.)	4 719.7
Number of settlements	215
Share of urban population (%)	69.1

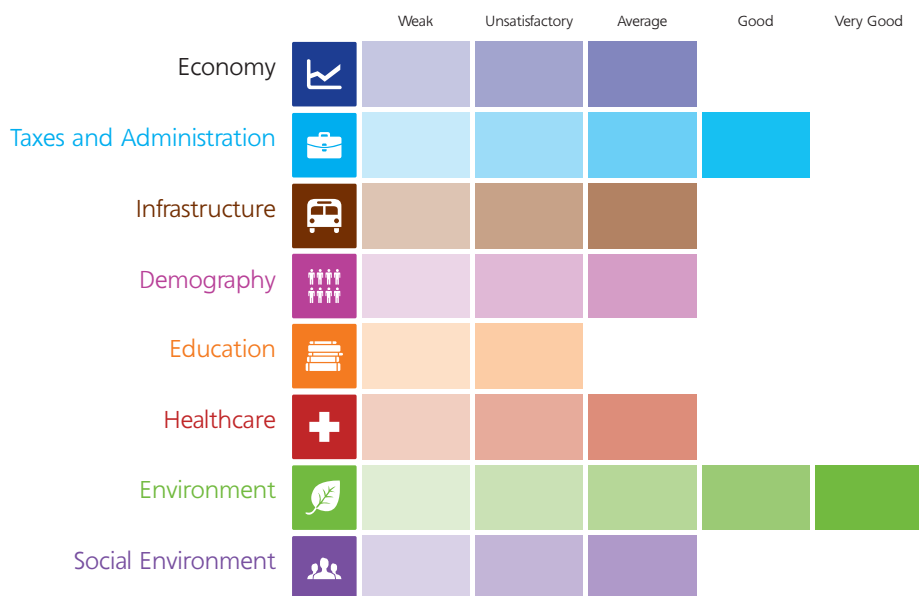
Overview

Dobrich District features a rather different structure of the economy compared to most districts in the country; the agricultural sector has a high share. Expenditure on acquisition of fixed tangible assets are the highest in agriculture. The employment rate was slightly higher than the country's average in 2013.

Higher decrease of the population in comparison with the national trends characterise the district. There are still serious challenges in the Education and Healthcare categories. The share of repeaters and dropouts from school is high, but it should be noted that pupils have demonstrated relatively good grades at state matriculation exams. The shortage of key specialists constitutes an essential problem in healthcare.

The level of local taxes and charges, included in the survey, is generally lower than Bulgaria's average. Relatively frequent use of provided e-services has been noted.

A big part of the road network consists of second-class roads of relatively good quality in comparison with the general state of the roads in Bulgaria.



Economy

GDP per capita amounted to 6,730 BGN in 2011. If Sofia (capital) were excluded, that would mean that Dobrich would have had higher GDP per capita than the country's average – 6,924 BGN. The economy's structure has differed from the one of the country – the share of agriculture in the gross value added was 18.9% in 2011, the country's average being 5.4%; the industry accounted for 26.5%, the country's average being 30.5%, and services totalled 54.6%, the country's average being 64.1%. The employment rate was 47.3% in 2013, which was slightly higher than the average employment rate of the population aged 15+. Notwithstanding the relatively high share of agriculture, only 11.8% of employed people have been in this sector. The reason thereof is that the main branch of agriculture in the district is the production of cereal crops and industrial crops that require no significant workforce given the modern mechanisation.

The cumulative foreign direct investments in non-financial enterprises have reached 1,398.4 euro per capita as at the end of 2012, the country's average being 3,005 euro per capita. Expenditure on acquisition of fixed tangible assets were 1,756 BGN in 2012 (the country's average being 2,614 BGN), which constitutes a plunge relative to the period of rapid growth till the crisis when expenditure on acquisition of fixed tangible assets reached 4,592 BGN in Dobrich District in 2009 (Bulgaria's average being 2,805 BGN). The main part of expenditure on acquisition of fixed tangible assets was in agriculture, forestry and fishing in 2012 – 44% or approximately 145 million BGN.

In Dobrich District, the total of sums paid under contracts with municipalities as beneficiaries, under operational programmes, has been commensurate with the country's average as at 31 January 2014 – 365.2 BGN per capita compared to the national level of 379.8 BGN. The district's centre has drawn the most of the funds – 1,514.3 BGN per capita, and the municipalities of Krushari and Dobrichka – the least (71.2 BGN and 54.2 BGN respectively).

Taxes and administration

Businesses assessed the performance of local administration higher than the country's average in May 2014 – 3.3 points in comparison with the national average of 3.1 points.

The level of local taxes and charges, included in the survey, was generally lower than Bulgaria's average in 2014. The vehicle tax (commercial and passenger vehicles, 74 kW to 110 kW) – 1.5 BGN/kW, the country's average being 1.35 BGN/kW – and the local tax on the sale of immovable property – 2.9%, the country's average being 2.4% – constitute an exception.

Businesses have assessed the quality of e-services rendered by the administration 3.6 points, Bulgaria's average being 3.4 points. About 47% of businesses have stated that they had used these services for the past year, which has been higher than the country's average of 38.6%.

"Access to Information Program" Foundation assessed the 2014 Active Transparency Rating of local government bodies with 49.2 points, which was higher than the country's average of 44.1 points but far behind the maximum of 82.4 points. The municipality of Dobrich received the top grade (64 points), and the municipality of Shabla – the lowest (28.1 points).

Infrastructure

The railway network density was 1.3 km per 100 sq. km of territory, the country's average being 3.7 km per 100 sq. km of territory, in 2012. The road network density of 17.5 km per 100 sq. km of territory was close to Bulgaria's average of 17.7 km per 100 sq. km of territory. A considerable part of the road network, about 30%, consists of second-class roads, which is specific for the district – about 20% of the national road network consists of such roads. The state of roads is better than the country's average. In 2013, the Road Infrastructure Agency assessed 45.8% of roads as possessing good quality, Bulgaria's average being 39.6%.

The relative share of households with internet access was 54.1% in 2013 or slightly higher than the country's average of 53.7%. Nevertheless, the relative share of people (aged 16 to 74) that have used the internet in the past 12 months was lower than the country's average – 50.6% and 56.2% respectively.

Demographics

The Dobrich District's population has decreased faster than Bulgaria's average. It has dropped 1.2% on average for the past ten years or totally by 12% while the national rate of decrease has respectively been 0.7% per year and 7.4% totally. These differences were mainly due to the lower rates of natural increase (minus 6.7% in 2013

compared to minus 5.2% for the country) and net migration (minus 2.8%).

Despite the faster decrease in the population, the district's age structure features slightly better parameters than those of Bulgaria. The age dependency ratio (65+ to 0–14) was 136.7% in 2013 (142.3% average for the country), and the ratio 65+ to 15–64 was 29.1% (29.3 average for the country). The coefficient of demographic replacement, represented as the population aged 15–19 in proportion to the population aged 60–64, was 59.7% in 2013. This provisionally means that 60 youngsters per 100 retiring people aged 60–64, who will leave the workforce, will join it in the next several years.

Education

This district has demonstrated the poorest results in comparison with the rest of Bulgaria in respect of the relative share of repeaters for the past three years. Their share was 2.2% in 2013, the country's average being 1%. Simultaneously, the relative share of dropouts from primary and secondary education was 3.6% in 2012, which ranks the district among the last ones along with the districts of Sliven (4.4%) and Targovishte (4.5%).

The grades from the state matriculation exams have represented Dobrich District relatively well. The share of failed students at state matriculation exams was 2.9% in 2014 in the district – far below Bulgaria's average of 4.8%. Blagoevgrad and Sofia were the only districts that have demonstrated better results – 2.7% and 1.9% respectively. Pupils' average grade was 4.3 in the 2013/2014 school year – just as much as the country's average.

Healthcare

Dobrich District possesses a relatively sufficient number of general practitioners. 1,354 people per general practitioner were treated in 2013 – less than the country's average of 1,589 people per general practitioner. The number of professionals specialised in Internal Medicine and Cardiology has remained a problem – 8,836 and 9,278 people respectively were treated by the relevant specialists in 2013, the country's average rates being 5,775 and 5,945 respectively.

The number of beds in multi-profile hospitals for active medical treatment is significantly less than Bulgaria's average – 2.9 per thousand people, the country's average being 4.6. Simultaneously, the share of people accepted for treatment at multi-profile hospitals for active medical treatment was also low in 2012 – 134.1 per thousand people, the country's average being 219.9 per thousand people, thus rendering Dobrich the second district with the lowest share of people accepted for treatment following the district of Pernik (103.4 people per thousand). The relatively low percentage of health insured persons, compared to the country's average (84% for the district relative to 86.1% for the country), and the shortage of specialists largely explain the specified data.

The data from the survey confirmed these conclusions. 72% of Bulgaria's population has stated that it had been treated in the past year, this share has been 68.8% for Dobrich District. 40.4% of treated people have had to travel outside the district to get treated, and the main reason for that has been the lack of specialists in Dobrich District (58.2%).

Environment

The particularly low carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere are the main reason for the district's high grade in this category. These emissions were 4.3 tonnes per sq. km in 2012, the country's average being 346.3 tonnes per sq. km. Kardzhali was the only district that has performed better – this indicator was 3.4 tonnes per sq. km.

The share of the population with access to sewage that has been connected to waste water treatment plants was 70.7% in 2012 – rather higher than Bulgaria's average (56.1%). All residents in settlements with public sewerage systems have been connected to waste water treatment plants, i.e. all wastewater from public sewerage systems is flowed into waste water treatment plants. The district has lagged behind the country's average (74.3%). Dobrich District has increased both indicators in recent years.

Social environment

Data show that 32.6% of the Dobrich District's population lived in material deprivation in 2011. This constitutes a relatively low share in view of the country's average of 44.1%; only the districts of Sofia, Blagoevgrad and Montana have performed better (32.4%, 28.5% and 23.3% respectively). The share of persons living in households with

low work intensity was low in 2011 – 6.4% (the country's average being 11.2%); this could be due to the relatively high employment rate in the district.

The citizens of Dobrich District relatively rarely visit the theatre or cinema – 0.3 visits per capita of the annual average population, the country's average being 1.0.

A survey conducted among the district's citizens in May 2014 has made it clear that 34.8% of the population would move to reside in any other district, and 51% would definitely not do that. These results demonstrate that Dobrich's citizens are more inclined to leave the district in comparison with the other districts.

Key indicators for the district of Dobrich

Indicators / year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
GDP per capita (BGN, current prices)	5 377	6 445	6730	n.a.	n.a.
Annual average employment rate of the population aged 15+ (%)	45.7	43.9	43.7	46.4	47.3
Annual average unemployment rate of the population aged 15+ (%)	12.9	16.4	17.3	15.4	15.8
Relative share of people living below the district's poverty line (%)	21.4	19.6	23.4	n.a.	n.a.
Age dependency ratio, 65+ to 15-64 (%)	24.0	24.7	27.1	27.9	29.1
Rate of natural increase (‰)	-4.6	-5.9	-5.7	-6.8	-6.7
Net migration rate (‰)	-4.4	-5.6	-3.7	-2.5	-2.8
Relative share of the population aged 25-64 with tertiary education (%)	16.7	17.9	18.4	18.3	18.4
Percent of failed students at state matriculation exams (%)	6.4	3.9	2.6	3.2	2.9
Average grade at state matriculation exams	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.3
Share of roads in good condition (%)	n.a.	47.89	45.15	46.00	45.8
Relative share of households with Internet access (%)	20.0	24.1	36.2	49.7	54.1
Share of the population with access to public sewerage systems, connected to WWTP (%)	67.4	67.7	69.4	70.7	n.a.
Health insured persons as share of the population (%)	87.6	83.9	86.6	85.4	84.0
Cases of hospitalization per 1,000 people	138.0	127.4	131.5	136.5	134.1
Average annual income per household member, BGN	2 974	3 013	2 994	3 856	4 166