

Gabrovo District

▶ Population (2014)	117,311
▶ Area (sq. km)	2,023.0
▶ Number of settlements	356
▶ Share of urban population (%)	82.0



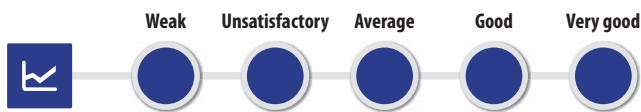
Overview

Gabrovo District features an intensive industrial profile and traditionally good economic indicators. Incomes have remained relatively high, and the unemployment rate has been among the lowest in Bulgaria. Considerable FDIs have accrued in the district throughout the years, and its municipalities have utilised EU funds very well. Local taxes and fees are among the lowest ones in Bulgaria.

The badly deteriorated demography poses a big challenge before Gabrovo District. The district features very high age dependency ratios and one of the low-

est birth rates in Bulgaria. The indicators for scope and quality of school education deteriorated in 2014. However, the number of graduates relative to the workforce increased, which constitutes a key factor for the development of the district. The good rate of utilisation and investment of EU funds has entailed very good indicators for the environment, especially with respect to water management. The indicators concerning the development of cultural activities in Gabrovo District have also been good compared to the national average levels.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Income and Living Conditions



Labor Market



Investment



Infrastructure



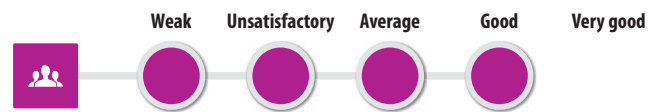
Taxes and Fees



Administration



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Demography



Education



Healthcare



Security and Justice



Environment



Culture



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Income and Living Conditions ●●●●

Gabrovo District's economy is the seventh biggest in Bulgaria, and the GDP per capita reached 9,025 BGN in 2012. The district's economy recovered very well from 2011 to 2012 compared to the national general trend. Incomes have remained relatively high in the district, and pension incomes stand out as relatively higher. Salaries have surged for the past couple of years, and the annual gross salary per employed person reached 7,912 BGN in 2013.

45.8% of the district's population lived in material deprivation in 2012, i.e. they faced difficulties in meeting their basic needs. The relative share of the poor compared to the district's poverty line fell to 15.2%, and this is a low level in comparison with the country. The share of people living in households with low employment, also dropped – barely 4.5% in 2012.

Labour Market ●●●

The labour market's recovery from 2012–2013 regarding Gabrovo District slowed down in 2014 – the employment rate remained 48.1%, and the economic activity fell to 52.3%. The unemployment rate continued to fall and was among the lowest in Bulgaria. It was 8.1% in 2014. Only the capital city has sustained lower levels of unemployment. The demographic replacement rate deteriorated a lot, though it increased slightly in 2014 to 47%, which means that there were 47 people aged 15–19 about to join the workforce per 100 people aged 60–64, about to leave it.

Investment ●●●●

Gabrovo is among the districts featuring the biggest amount of attracted FDIs, weighed against the population. However, in the past couple of years (2012–2013) there has been no inflow of foreign capitals. The expenditure on the acquisition of FTAs recovered in 2013 and reached almost 183 m BGN.

The municipalities of Gabrovo District have utilised EU funds very well, and the district has topped the rank in terms of EU funds paid relative to the population. The funds municipalities received as beneficiaries under EU operational programmes as of January 2015, were approximately 160 m BGN. The district centre of Gabrovo has drawn down funds exceptionally well (124 m BGN), followed by the municipalities of Sevlievo (22 m BGN) and Tryavna (10.5 m BGN).



Infrastructure ●●●●●

Gabrovo remains the district with the densest road network in Bulgaria – about 25 km per 100 sq. km of territory (2013). No highway, however, passes through the district. Gabrovo has remained one of few district centres without a bypass. The quality of roads has improved in recent years, and the share of roads in good condition reached 41.5% in 2014, higher than the country average.

Households' access to the Internet was enhanced, and the district has already ranked among the top ones in Bulgaria – 64.4% of households had access to the Internet in 2014. Internet use also went up in 2014 and 63.2% of the people aged 16–74 have used the Internet for the past 12 months.

Taxes and Fees ●●●●●

Local taxes and fees in the municipalities of Gabrovo District have been among the lowest in Bulgaria and remain unchanged in 2015. The tax on properties of legal entities is 1.5‰ in the municipalities of Dryanovo, Gabrovo and Sevlievo, and 2.0‰ in Tryavna Municipality. The tax on the sale of immovable property is 2.0% in the municipalities of Dryanovo, Gabrovo and Tryavna, and 2.5% in Sevlievo Municipality. The vehicle tax is also low in the district centre of Gabrovo.

Household waste charges imposed in the four municipalities of the district are among the lowest in Bulgaria: Gabrovo – 3,10‰, Dryanovo – 6,70‰, Sevlievo – 3,80‰ and Tryavna – 4,75‰. Gabrovo Municipality is practically among the districts with the lowest taxes and fees in Bulgaria.

Administration ●●●●

The municipalities of Gabrovo District have performed relatively well in the provision of e-services and one-stop' shop services. The municipalities of Dryanovo and Gabrovo are positive examples in the rendering of e-services. One-stop shop services are well organised in the municipalities of Dryanovo, Gabrovo and Tryavna. The cadastral map covered 21.3% of the district's territory in 2014, which was high compared to the national average.

Gabrovo District has also performed very well in the 2015 Active Transparency Rating of local government bodies by the AIP Foundation. The municipality of Gabrovo received the highest transparency rating within the district, and the municipality of Dryanovo – the lowest. However, all of the municipalities in the district have considerably improved their grade compared to one year earlier.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ●●●●●

Demography ●

Gabrovo District is one of the smallest districts in Bulgaria. The population continued to decrease in 2014 and has already dropped to about 117,000 people. The relative share of urban population is over 80%. The high rate of natural decrease caused the drastic drop in the number of residents; this decrease has been about -10‰ in recent years (2012–2014). The outflow from the district also accelerated, and the net migration rate was $-4,8\text{‰}$ in 2014.

The age dependency ratios have deteriorated, and Gabrovo District (alongside Vidin District) has faced the most serious challenges in Bulgaria. In 2014 the population aged 65+ was almost 2.4 times larger than that of children (aged up to 14) and about 43% of the working population (aged 15–64). The birthrate was the second lowest in Bulgaria after that of Smolyan District ($6,6\text{‰}$ in 2014).

Education ●●●●●

The number of teachers, relative to the number of students in Gabrovo District, has been preserved in recent years – there were 14 students per teacher in 2014. The net enrolment rate of the population (grades 5th through 8th) slightly decreased and it was already 77.6% in 2014. The share of dropouts from primary and secondary schools was 2.2% (in 2013), and the relative share of repeaters was 1.1% (2014). The grades at state matriculation exams were slightly lower in 2015 – 4.23 on average for the district. The relative share of failures, i.e. grades below average 3.00 increased to 6.6% in 2015.

The Technical University of Gabrovo is located in the district centre. It has good traditions and it has been one of the factors for attracting young people to the district. The number of students has continued to increase surpassing 6,000 people in 2014. The relative share of graduates aged 25–64 increased to 26.3% in 2014.

Healthcare ●●●●●

The number of beds in MpHATs in Gabrovo District has slightly increased for the past year which shows that the local population has been provided with beds relatively well – 614 beds in 2014 or 5.2 beds per 1,000 people. The cases of hospitalisation in MpHATs were 246.2 per 1,000 people, above the country average; this could be related to the ageing of the local population and the increased morbidity rate.

Health-insured persons residing in the district were about 94% in 2014, which demonstrated good access to healthcare in comparison with the country. The district features a higher number of health professionals com-

pared to Bulgaria, though the number of cardiologists is relatively small. The infant mortality rate fell to 1.3‰ in 2014, the lowest level in the entire country.

Security and Justice ●●●●●

According to official data, Gabrovo District is relatively secure. 4.2 crimes against the person per 10,000 people were registered in 2014 and 83 crimes against the property, the latter having considerably dropped in recent years. It can be concluded from the data that the court works relatively efficiently and quickly. In 2013 the share of criminal cases, decided by the District Court and closed in the first 3 months, was 96%, and the share of pending criminal cases was 7.6% as at the end of 2013, with the country average at 8.5%. Judge workload was relatively low in Gabrovo District in 2013, reaching 7.6 cases per judge per month compared to the national average of 8.3 cases per judge per month.

Environment ●●●●●

Notwithstanding the industrial profile of Gabrovo District, carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere have remained low in comparison to Bulgaria – 31 t/sq. km in 2013. Collected household waste increased in 2013 to 424 kg per capita.

The share of the population having access to public sewerage was 85% in 2013, which is very high. 67% of the population with access to sewage has been connected to waste water treatment plants since 2010. This is one of the top levels in Bulgaria according to 2013 data; the reason is the high proportion of urban population and the good utilisation of EU funds intended for this purpose. The construction of Gabrovo's water cycle project continued in 2015. The expenditure on environmental protection surged in the district in 2013 and has already reached 17.5 m BGN.

Culture ●●●●●

The indicators regarding cultural activities in Gabrovo District have developed relatively well in recent years. Visits to museums have traditionally been very high – 296,000 in 2014. Visits to theatres attendances surged to 47,000 in 2014, which exceeded the national figure relative to the local population. Visits to the cinema declined to 17,000 in 2014, but it could be expected that their number will rise following the opening of a new cinema in 2015 in the district centre of Gabrovo. Library visits gradually fell to 54,000 in 2014.

Key Indicators for the District of Gabrovo

Economic Development	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
GDP per capita (BGN, current prices)	7,614	7,296	8,721	9,025	n.a.	n.a.
Average annual income per household member (BGN)	3,587	3,113	3,351	4,408	4,858	4,787
Average annual gross salary (BGN)	6,112	6,591	6,827	7,399	7,912	n.a.
Relative share of people living below the district's poverty line (%)	15.9	17.1	17.6	15.2	n.a.	n.a.
Annual average economic activity rate of the population 15+ (%)	49.7	48.3	48.9	50.0	52.7	52.3
Annual average employment rate of the population 15+ (%)	47.6	44.7	44.1	45.2	48.1	48.1
Annual average unemployment rate (%)	4.4	7.5	9.9	9.6	8.8	8.1
Number of non-financial companies per 1,000 people	48	48	48	48	48	n.a.
Expenditure on the acquisition of fixed tangible assets per capita (BGN)	1,183	830	1,345	1,181	1,534	n.a.
Cumulative FDI to non-financial enterprises per capita (EUR)	1,613	1,747	2,224	2,245	2,172	n.a.
Relative share of households with Internet access (%)	22.9	33.5	39.8	34.8	48.2	64.4
Share of roads in good condition (%)	n.a.	24.6	31.4	32.0	36.4	41.5
Share of territory included in cadastral maps (%)	20.4	21.2	21.2	21.2	21.2	21.3

Social Development	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Rate of natural increase (‰)	-7.9	-9.3	-9.7	-11.2	-10.7	-11.6
Net migration rate (‰)	-6.8	-8.3	-2.2	-0.9	-3.6	-4.8
Relative share of the population aged 25–64 with tertiary education (%)	27.8	24.2	25.0	25.1	24.9	26.3
Average grades at state matriculation exams	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.4
Percent of failed students at state matriculation exams	4.8	5.3	4.2	4.7	3.7	4.3
Health insured persons as share of the population (%)	92.7	91.1	94.2	93.5	92.7	94.0
Cases of hospitalization in general hospitals	217.7	195.4	201.2	239.3	261.5	246.2
Crimes against the property per 10,000 people	112.3	120.0	108.3	87.7	93.6	83.0
Share of pending criminal cases (%)	5.5	4.7	8.4	6.6	7.6	n.a.
Expenditure on environmental protection per capita (BGN)	24.9	32.2	31.3	42.3	147.0	n.a.
Share of the population living in settlements with public sewerage systems, connected to WTPP (%)	46.4	65.0	66.6	66.7	66.8	n.a.
Number of visits to cinemas per 1,000 people	105.9	97.1	103.4	68.9	153.8	144.9
Number of visits to theatres per 1,000 people	206.7	299.4	293.4	293.5	321.9	398.9