Regional profiles:
Indicators for development 2020

Institute for Market Economics
www.ime.bg / www.dvenasto.bg
www.regionalprofiles.bg

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Main features of the “Regional profiles”

• Tracking the trajectory of economic and social development of the regions in the past 9 years
• An annual analysis of the 28 districts in Bulgaria
• 64 indicators of economic and social development, grouped in 12 categories
• A focus on Bulgarian municipalities: IME has written economic profiles and analyses of the economies of Sofia, Varna, Gabrovo, Veliko Tarnovo, Bansko, Vratsa, Panagyuriste
• The efforts are supported by “America for Bulgaria” foundation
Types of indicators included in the “Regional profiles”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</th>
<th>SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income and living conditions</td>
<td>Demographics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour market</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>Healthcare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Security and justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Culture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Primary findings of „Regional profiles 2020“
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>GDP (2019)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North-East region</td>
<td>Varna</td>
<td>7,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shumen</td>
<td>1,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dobrich</td>
<td>1,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Targovishte</td>
<td>1,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Central region</td>
<td>Ruse</td>
<td>2,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gabrovo</td>
<td>1,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sillistra</td>
<td>835</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Razgrad</td>
<td>1,162</td>
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<tr>
<td>North-West region</td>
<td>Veliko Tarnovo</td>
<td>2,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lovech</td>
<td>1,272</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>1,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vidin</td>
<td>732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pleven</td>
<td>2,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vratsa</td>
<td>2,138</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GDP in Southern Bulgaria (2019)

- **South-West region**
  - Sofia: 3,873
  - Blagoevgrad: 3,139
  - Pernik: 1,123
  - Kyustendil: 1,117
  - Sofia cap.: 51,282

- **South-Central region**
  - Plovdiv: 9,653
  - Haskovo: 2,049
  - Kardzhali: 1,494
  - Smolyan...

- **South-East region**
  - Burgas: 5,507
  - Stara Zagora: 5,125
  - Sliven: 1,506
  - Yambol: 1,198
The economic profile of Bulgarian districts
Record employment, but not for everybody

Employment coefficient for the population 15-64 of age (%)
An educated workforce is key for economic transformation

- Share of the population aged 25-64 with tertiary education (%)
- Share of the population aged 25-64 with primary or lower education (%)
Foreign investment is concentrated in major economic centres

![Cumulative FDI for 2018 (euro/person)]
Demography as the limiting factor

Age dependency ratio:
Population 65 and over to population aged 15-64 (%)
Education in times of pandemic

- Average matriculation exam grade in Bulgarian language and literature (XII grade, left)
- Share of "failed" grades (% , right scale)
Regional divisions in healthcare

Population per specialist physician

- Pleven: 327
- Sofia: 354
- Plovdiv: 373
- Varna: 373
- Country: 424
- Sofia: 424
- Stara: 447
- Gabrovo: 450
- Ruse: 469
- Lovech: 472
- Burgas: 494
- Montana: 509
- Vratsa: 510
- Parvazhik: 512
- Kyustendil: 513
- Targovisht: 524
- Rusegrad: 543
- Veliko: 555
- Blagoevgr: 566
- Smolyan: 570
- Vidin: 572
- Haskovo: 576
- Silwen: 577
- Shumen: 599
- Per: 600
- Kardzhali: 611
- Yambol: 673
- Dobrich: 738
Daily dynamics of unemployment - 2020-2021
Dynamics of unemployment and new employment in 2020 – the impact of economic uncertainty
Municipalities and the first lockdown – tourist municipalities got hit first
The summer of 2020 – improvements in seaside and agricultural areas
The annual hit
The regions beyond the pandemic

• The transformation of the Bulgarian economy is ongoing, despite the pandemic – industry is turning towards higher value added, driven by the high-tech world
• Local authorities are looking for a new model, facing towards knowledge and attracting investment
• Decentralization and increasing municipalities' own resources is key to medium-term success
• Municipalities are defining their strategies for the 2021-2026 period
• Next Generation EU can be important for the future development of regions
IME’s regional initiatives
Преки чуждестранни инвестиции с натрупване на човек от населението
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