

Introduction

Bulgaria is located in Southern Europe situated on the eastern Balkan Peninsula. It is a mostly mountainous country surrounded by Greece, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and the Black Sea. Bulgaria has strategic access to Turkish Straits and controls key land routes to Europe and the Middle East. The government system is a parliamentary democracy; the chief of state is the president, and the head of government is the prime minister. Bulgaria has transitioned to a market economic system in which the prices of goods and services are determined in a free price system. Bulgaria is a member of the European Union (EU).



Location: Eastern Europe

Capital City: Sofia (+2 GMT)

Chief of State: President Rumen Radev

Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Boyko Borisov

Currency: Bulgarian lev (BGN)

Major Languages: <p>Bulgarian (official) 76.8%, Turkish 8.2%, Roma 3.8%, other 0.7%, unspecified 10.5%</p>

Primary Religions: <p>Eastern Orthodox 59.4%, Muslim 7.8%, other (including Catholic, Protestant, Armenian Apostolic Orthodox, and Jewish) 1.7%, none 3.7%, unspecified 27.4%</p>

Calling Code: 359

Voltage: 230

Key Websites

Main Government Page: government.bg

Export Promotion Agency: sme.government.bg

Investment Promotion Agency: investbg.government.bg

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Upper Middle Income
Level of Development:	Developed
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$143.85 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	3.56% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$20,329.34 (2017)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$40,438,225,250.60 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	14.49% (2016)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	\$2.63 billion (2017)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	2.06% (2017)
Labor force, total:	3,243,187 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	6.16% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$36.82 billion (2017)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$37.69 billion (2017)

GDP Composition %



**Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.*

Rankings

Index	Rank
Corruption Perceptions Index	71 / 178
EY Globalization Index	22 / 60
Global Competitiveness Index	50 / 139
Global Enabling Trade Index	53 / 136
Global Services Location Index	15 / 55
Index of Economic Freedom	37 / 179
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	52 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	59 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	34 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	69 / 139
Open Budget Index	20 / 115

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: A4 - A somewhat shaky political and economic outlook and a relatively volatile business environment can affect corporate payment behavior. Corporate default probability is still acceptable on average.

Business Climate rating: A3 - The business environment is relatively good. Although not always available, corporate financial information is usually reliable. Debt collection and the institutional framework may have some shortcomings. Intercompany transactions may run into occasional difficulties in the otherwise secure environments rated A3.

Strengths

- Diversified productive base
- Low public debt
- Tourism potential
- Low production costs and good price competitiveness

Weaknesses

- Corruption and organized crime
- Inefficient public services and judicial system (influence of the business community)
- Unstable government and fragmented political landscape
- Lack of skilled labor
- Declining and relatively poor population (GDP per capita = 50% of the EU average)
- Informal economy (estimated at 20% of GDP)

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