

BULGARIA

Constitution

Official name:

Republic of Bulgaria

Legal system:

Based on the constitution of July 1991

National legislature:

Unicameral National Assembly of 240 members, elected by proportional representation

Electoral system:

Universal direct suffrage from the age of 18

National elections:

October 2006 (presidential) and June 25 2005 (parliamentary); next presidential election due in October 2011, next parliamentary election due in July 2009

Head of state:

Georgi Parvanov, re-elected president in October 2006

National government:

A coalition between Bulgarian Socialist Party, the National Movement for Stability and Progress, and the Movement for Rights and Freedoms

Main political parties:

Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), National Movement for Stability and Progress (NMSP), Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF), Bulgarian New Democracy (BND), Blue Coalition, Democrats for a Strong Bulgaria (DSB), Bulgarian People's Union (BPU), Ataka (Attack) coalition, Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria (CEDB)



Economic summary

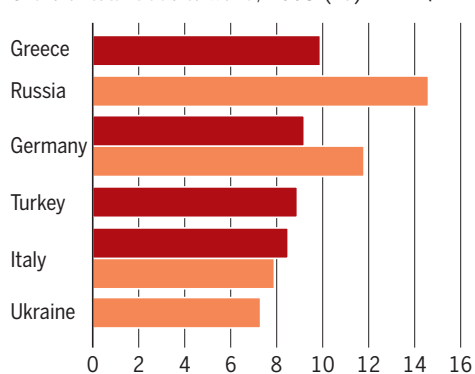
	2008	2009*	2010*
Total GDP (Lev bn)	66.7	68.0	71.3
Total GDP (\$bn)	50.2	46.1	50.5
Real GDP growth (annual % change)	6.0	-3.8	0.9
GDP per head (\$PPP)	12,452	12,140	12,370
Inflation (annual % change in CPI)	7.8	2.5	2.8
Agricultural output (annual % change)	17.0	1.0	1.2
Industrial production (annual % change)	1.5	-10.0	0.5
Services production (annual % change)	6.6	-1.9	1.0
Money supply, M1 (annual % change)	-4.1	-13.7	2.6
Foreign exchange reserves (\$bn)	17.9	10.4	11.4
Unemployment rate (% of labour force)	6.3	9.5	8.5
Budget balance (% of GDP)	3.0	-1.5	0.1
Current account balance (\$bn)	-12.1	-6.1	-4.9
Merchandise exports (\$bn)	22.5	17.0	18.2
Merchandise imports (\$bn)	34.9	24.1	24.8
Trade balance (\$bn)	-12.4	-7.1	-6.6

Standard and Poor's **BBB** Moody's **Baa3** Fitch **BBB-**

Area	111,002 sq km
Language: Bulgarian	
Currencies: Lev (Lv)	
Exchange rate:	
2008 average	1.396 Lev=\$1
2009 latest	1.337 Lev=\$1
Population (December 2008)	7.61m
Main towns	
Sofia (capital)	1,241,000
Plovdiv	705,000
Varna	460,000
Burgas	420,000
Stara Zagora	356,000

Main trading partners

Share of total trade to world, 2008 (%)



Sources: Economist Intelligence Unit; Thomson Reuters Datastream

* forecast