



# BULGARIA



## INTRODUCTION

The Bulgars, a Central Asian Turkic tribe, merged with the local Slavic inhabitants in the late 7th century to form the first Bulgarian state. Northern Bulgaria attained autonomy in 1878, and all of Bulgaria became independent from the Ottoman Empire in 1908. Bulgaria fell within the Soviet sphere of influence and became a People's Republic in 1946. Communist domination ended in 1990, when Bulgaria held its first multiparty election since World War II.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Rumen RADEV

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Nikolay DENKOV

### Government Type

parliamentary republic

### Capital

Sofia

### Legislature

unicameral National Assembly or Narodno Sabranie (240 seats)

### Ambassador to US

Ambassador Georgi Velikov PANAYOTOV

### US Ambassador

Ambassador Kenneth MERTEN

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 110,879 sq km

Land: 108,489 sq km

Water: 2,390 sq km

### Climate

temperate; cold, damp winters; hot, dry summers

### Natural Resources

bauxite, copper, lead, zinc, coal, timber, arable land

as of February 2024

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

upper-middle-income EU economy; improving living standards and very robust economic growth; coal-based infrastructure; legacy structural vulnerabilities and widespread corruption; increasing Russian economic relations, particularly through energy trade

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$174.3 billion (2022 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$27,000 (2022 est.)

**Industries** - electricity, gas, water, food, beverages, tobacco, machinery and equipment, automotive parts, base metals, chemical products, coke, refined petroleum, nuclear fuel

**Agricultural products** - wheat, maize, sunflower seed, milk, barley, rapeseed, potatoes, grapes, tomatoes, watermelons

**Exports** \$62.51 billion (2022 est.)

copper, wheat, electricity, refined petroleum, packaged medicines (2021)

**partners:** Germany 14%, Romania 10%, Greece 8%, Italy 8%, Turkey 6%, (2021)

**Imports** \$62.34 billion (2022 est.)

crude petroleum, copper, cars, packaged medicines, refined petroleum (2021)

**partners:** Germany 12%, Turkey 8%, Greece 8%, Romania 8%, Italy 7% (2021)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

6.8 million (2023 est.)

### Population Growth

-0.66% (2023 est.)

### Ethnicity

Bulgarian 78.5%, Turkish 7.8%, Romani 4.1%, other 1.2%, unspecified 9.4% (2021 est.)

### Language

Bulgarian (official) 77.3%, Turkish 7.9%, Romani 3.5%, other 1%, unspecified 10.4% (2021 est.)

### Religion

Christian 64.7%, Muslim 9.8%, other 0.1%, none 4.7%, unspecified 20.7% (2021 est.)