



# BULGARIA

**Area:** 111,002 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Population:** 7 million  
**Median age of population:** 44.2 years  
**GDP/capita (PPP):** EUR 7,883  
**Unemployment rate:** 5.2%  
**Current account balance (in % of GDP):** 4.6  
**Government gross debt (in % of GDP):** 22.1  
**R&D expenditure (in % of GDP):** 0.8

## EXPORTS (IN % OF GDP): 64.5

### Top 3 export destinations

Germany  
Italy  
Romania



## COMPETITIVENESS RANKINGS

**Ease of Doing Business Index (Worldbank; as of 2019):** 59 out of 190  
**Global Competitiveness Index (WEF):** 51 out of 140  
**World Competitiveness Ranking (IMD; as of 2019):** 48 out of 63

## SHARE IN GROSS VALUE ADDED

Industry: 23.8%  
Construction: 3.7%  
Services: 59.2%  
Agriculture: 3.6%



## BAGPIPES

Bagpipes are not just a Scottish phenomenon. They are also a traditional instrument in Bulgaria (and some other Balkan and Eastern European countries). They are called gaida and are usually made of goatskin.



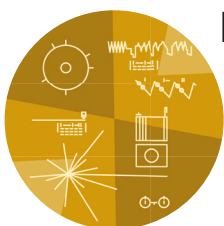
## NODDING FOR NO

In Bulgaria a shake of the head means "yes" and a nod means "no." This can be confusing when you try to communicate with a local through gestures. Fortunately, most Bulgarians know how react to such a situation.

## MARTENITSI

On the first day of March, Bulgarians exchange red-and-white woven bracelets with one another. They wear these Martenitsi bracelets throughout the month, which is called Baba Marta ("Grandmother March"), until they see a stork or a blooming tree. Then, the bracelets are tied to trees as a way of welcoming springtime.

## BULGARIAN SONG IN SPACE



The Bulgarian folk song "Izlel e Delyu Haydutin" by Valya Balkanska was sent into space on board of the space probe Voyager I. It is part of the Golden Record, a collection of human artifacts intended as a message for extraterrestrial life.

## ROSE PRODUCTION

Bulgaria grows a lot of roses. In fact, the roses grown in Bulgaria's "Rose Valley" produce 70 to 85 percent of the world's rose oil.

