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Survey Report

"Business and Labour Force Survey (BLFS) carried out in the cross-border region".

Principal: NGO European Business Support Center, as a leading beneficiary under the Project "BG RO MOBILITY", № 16.4.2.113, EMS code: ROBG - 155, implemented under the "Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria" Programme and co-financed by the European Union, through the European Regional Development Fund and the national budgets of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Romania.

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I. General Information

1. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

This Report is drawn up within the scope of the Activities under the Contract №16.4.2.113/Se-02 with subject matter "Business and workforce study (BWS) carried out in the cross-border region", with Principal NGO "European Business Support Centre", as a leading Beneficiary under the Project "BG RO MOBILITY", № 16.4.2.113, EMS code: ROBG - 155, implemented under the "Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria" Programme and co-financed by the European Union, through the European Regional Development Fund and the national budgets of the Republic of Bulgaria and of the Republic of Romania.

Project Objectives and Expected Results refer directly to the objective of the INTERREG Programme: To cope with the common challenges identified jointly in the border regions and to benefit from the unused growth potential in the border regions, while, at the same time, improving the cooperation process for the purposes of the harmonious development of the Union.

Target group under the Project covers forty-five Romanian towns and seventy-six Bulgarian towns from the cross-border region of Bulgaria - Romania, including:

- ***Seven districts in Romania: Mehedinti, Dolj, Olt, Teleorman, Giurgiu, Calarasi, Constanta;***
- ***Eight districts in Bulgaria: Vidin, Vratsa, Montana, Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo, Ruse, Silistra, Dobrich.***

2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE ACTIVITIES

The overall objective of the Business and Labour Force Study is to collect, to process and to analyse empirical and other information in order to identify any labour market problems and trends in the Bulgarian-Romanian cross-border region.

Study components were outlined using the three main Activities:

- ***Activity 1: Identification of the economic sectors in the cross-border region having a capacity to provide employment***
- ***Activity 2: Identification of the economic sectors in the cross-border region having a shortage of people with specific competencies and qualifications***
- ***Activity 3: Identification and Study of the Labour force; Employment and Unemployment Assessments***

The Activities outlined were focused on the following objectives:

- Identification of the economic sectors in the cross-border region (15 target BG-RO regions) with a capacity to provide employment. The main objective of this component is to increase people's awareness of what job opportunities are available in the cross-border region.
- Identification of the economic sectors in the cross-border region (15 target BG-RO regions), which are experiencing shortages of people with specific competencies and qualifications. These are the sectors with high development potential, needing a Labour force with specific qualifications and skills (high-tech sector etc.). The main objective of this component is to raise people's

awareness of what qualifications and skills they must possess in order to find long-term employment.

- Labour Force Survey in the cross-border region (15 target BG-RO regions). The Labour Force Study should provide employment and unemployment assessments in the context of the cross-border mobility. The main objective is to analyse the Labour market and to determine the attitudes of people surveyed towards the mobility in the cross-border region.

This Report is drawn up as a result of the implementation of the above Activities, containing the outlined study methodologies and research tools as well as the study results.

3. ABBREVIATIONS USED

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GVA	Gross Value Added
BIA	Bulgarian Industrial Association
BCCI	Bulgarian Chamber Of Commerce and Industry
HSARD	Higher School Of Agribusiness and Regional Development
EU	European Union
IT	Information Technology
NRA	National Revenue Agency
SR&D	Research and Development
NSI	National Statistical Institute
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
UR	Unemployment rate
ER	Employment rate
NWR	Northwestern Region
NCR	North Central Region
TDR	Transdunavian Region
FI	Foreign Investment

4. CLASSIFICATIONS AND NOMENCLATURES USED

Classification of Economic Activities (NACE.BG - 2008);

Classification of Territorial Units for Statistical purposes in Bulgaria (NUTS)

Classification of Economic Activities of Romania (Clasificarea Activitatilor din Economia Nationala - CAEN Rev.2 & Classification of Activities from National Economy - CANE Rev.2 - Romania)

Classification of Territorial Units of Romania (NUTS Codes of Romania)

Statistical Classification of Economic Activities within the European Union "NACE, Rev. 2 "

5. CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

According to the methodology of NSI Bulgaria

Unemployed persons are persons aged 15-74 years who: during the reference period had no work; had not actively sought employment during the past 4 weeks, incl. the reference week, or had already had found a job that will be expected to start up within three months of the end of the reference period; had been able to start work within the next two weeks of the end of the reference period.

Number of local units - individual divisions of the enterprises that had been active for the whole or part of the reference year, and for which each enterprise had submitted a "Statement of reference

on the local units" filled in as an integral part of their Annual Activity Report (they had achieved sales revenue, or they had employed at least one person).

Number of enterprises - all non-financial enterprises that had been active for the whole or part of the reference year, and had submitted their Annual Activity Report to the NSI or NRA Report (they had achieved sales revenue or they had employed at least one person).

Gross domestic product - equivalent of the GDP per Region - the GDP is valued at market prices, as the gross value added, calculated at basic prices at regional level, is assessed in terms of adjustments (net taxes on products), while maintaining the regional structure. The GDP amount at market prices of the 6 statistical regions exhausted the GDP at market prices of the national economy.

Gross value added - the production approach was used to calculate the GVA in the field of industry - for each statistical region, the volume of value added derived from the calculated indicators of "gross output" and "intermediate consumption". Regional indicators that have high correlation dependency in terms of value added - Data of the "Report on employed persons and labor resources"- had been used to calculate the economic activities in the field of services and in the agricultural sector.

Age -the age of the population at the end of the year was calculated as per December 31st, in years of age on the basis of the date of birth, i.e. this is the age that the individuals have reached as per December 31st of the year concerned.

Long-term tangible assets - the sum of the long-term tangible assets specified in the balance sheets of those enterprises that were required to prepare a balance sheet, and the data of the reference on the long-term tangible assets for of those enterprises that were not required to prepare a balance sheet.

Natural population growth - the difference between the number of registered live births of children and the number of persons died during the year.

Persons in employment - persons in employment aged 15 years and over, who, during the reference period, i.e. one calendar week: had no work, even for one hour, for which they have received a wage or other income; had no work, but had a job from which they were temporarily absent due to illness, annual leave, leave due to pregnancy and childbirth, parental leave, strike or other reasons.

Economic activity - determined by the type of production or services performed by the enterprise or the division where the principal place of work of the person had been located. Economic Sectors-the distribution by Economic Sectors had been carried out by grouping the activities as follows: The Sector of '*Agriculture and Forestry*' covered Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Fisheries. The Sector of '*Industry*' covered Extractive Industries, Processing Industry, Production and Distribution of Electrical and Thermal Energy and Gaseous Fuels, Water Supply, Sewage Services, Waste Management and Rehabilitation and Construction. The Sector of '*Services*' covered all other economic activities.

Coefficient for natural growth - it is calculated in per mille, in terms of the difference between the number of live children and the number of dead persons during the year and the average number of the population in the same year.

Unemployment rate - relative share of unemployed persons of the economically active population (Workforce).

Employment rate - relative share of persons in employment of the same age.

Economic Activity rate -the ratio of economically active persons (Workforce) and the population of the same age.

Persons other than Workforce -this was the currently economically inactive population - persons who had been neither employed nor unemployed during the reference period. This group also referred to persons who had been using an additional leave for child care up to 2 years of age.

Mechanical growth of population - In terms of territorial aspect, this is the difference between the number of settled persons and displaced persons of each settlement. The migration balance of the external migration is the difference between the displaced persons and settled persons in the country.

Employed persons -persons in employment relationship with an employer under the Labour Code and in a service relationship under the Law On Civil Servant, according to which they had received a remuneration, in cash or in kind, in the form of a salary for a given volume and quality of work, irrespective of whether the employment contract is permanent or temporary, full-time or partial.

Population as per December 31st - persons who had lived permanently (had a current address) in the country as per December 31st of the reference year and had not been absent for a period longer than 1 year. The number and structures of the population as per December 31st each year was calculated based on the data from the previous year and the data on the natural and mechanical movement of the population in the current year.

Net sales revenue - sales revenue from production, goods and services incl. revenue from export sales.

Discouraged persons - people aged 15 and over, who had wished to work, but had not sought actively work because they had assumed that they would not find any.

Turnover - the value of all the sales revenue of own products, goods purchased and sold in the same kind, services provided and raw materials and materials sold, including any excise duties accrued, which had been invoiced during the reference period. No proceeds from sales of fixed assets, income from financing, financial and extraordinary revenues were included in 'Turnover'. No taxes such as the Value Added Tax (VAT) charged to the end user had been included in the Turnover value.

'Under', 'at', 'above' working age - the age limits for the distribution of population by the categories 'Under', 'at', 'above' working-age, determined according to the current age of retirement in the year concerned, adopted by Decree of the Council of Ministers.

Production manufactured - the turnover value less the carrying amount of assets sold, excluding that of own tangible fixed assets. The evolution of stocks of production and unfinished production, as well as the expenses incurred for the acquisition of assets in an economic way were also included.

Labour force - currently economically active population - persons aged 15 and over who had invested in or offered their work in the production of goods and services. The Labour force includes both employed and unemployed persons.

Expenses for acquisition of tangible fixed assets - this includes the actual expenses incurred in purchasing land, construction of buildings, construction facilities and structures, by means of outsourcing and in an economic way; for the supply and installation of long-term tangible assets; for the purchase of machinery, facilities, equipment and transport means; for geological and hydrological research; for construction servicing research and design works as well as any other expenses related to the acquisition of long-term tangible assets. Current maintenance costs of available FTA are not included in the amount of Expenses for acquisition of tangible fixed assets. The

value of Tangible Fixed Assets acquired by the enterprise by means of construction (after being put into service under the established procedure of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public works) and purchasing, had been included in the long-term tangible assets acquired during the reference period.

Average list number of persons hired per month - the sum of the list number of Hired Persons on each calendar day of the month (including holidays and weekends) divided by the number of calendar days in the reference month. The list number of 'Hired persons' for weekends and holidays had been considered to be equal to the list number on the last working day (before the holiday or day-off in question). Average list number of part-time employees had been converted to full employment based on the duration of the working time established in the employment contract of such person.

Employment status - persons are classified in the following groups by employment status: *Employers* - persons who, alone or in association with other persons, manage their own enterprises (companies, farms), working on a lease or self-employment, by employing at least one person; *Self-employed persons* - persons who, alone or in association with other persons, carry out business activities, work as a freelancer (private practice), work on a lease or individually perform another activity by not employing other persons; *Employees* - persons who carry out work for which they receive remuneration, in cash or in kind, in the form of a salary, a wage under civil contract or other remuneration, working in public enterprise and organisations or for a private employer; *Unpaid family workers* - persons who work without payment in a company, enterprise or holding of a related person from the same household.

Aggregate of active enterprises in year t - the number of active enterprises is the number of registered legal entities or natural persons who had have a Turnover or Hired Persons, i.e. had been active in the reference year

Foreign direct investment in non-financial enterprises as per December 31st - any investment involving long-term relationships reflecting long-term interest of a resident of the foreign-economy (Foreign direct investor) in an enterprise-resident of the Bulgarian economy (investment company). The direct investment includes both the initial transaction between the two entities and any subsequent transactions between them.

According to the methodology of NSI Romania

Active local units - Economic unit represents an organisation (consisting of one or several persons) with legal entity, created in order to carry out certain activities according to the Law no. 15 and on Law no. 31 / 1990 with subsequent modifications of Law no. 507/2002 and Decree no. 44/2008. Social unit represents an organisation (consisting of one or several persons) with legal entity, created in order to carry out an activity devoted to social interest. Local unit is an enterprise or part thereof (workshop, factory, warehouse, office, mine or station a.s.o) situated in a geographically identified place.

Activity rate of labour resources represents the ratio, expressed as percentage, between the civil economically active population and the labour resources.

Education unit - represents the administrative educational unit, juridical entity included in National Nomenclature SIRUES, where one or more level of education is functioning and having a single management system.

Employment rate of labour resources represents the ratio, expressed as percentage, between the civil employment population and the labour resources.

Gross investments in tangible goods are investments during the reference period in all tangible goods. Included are new and existing tangible capital goods, whether bought.

Labour resources on January 1, are represented by that category of population having the physical and intellectual capacity to perform useful work in one of the economic activities.

Labour resources include: working age population able to work as well as persons under and over the working age but who are still working.

Natural increase is the balance between the number of live-births and the number of deaths in the reference year.

Net investments represent expenditure for construction, installations and assembly works, for equipment and transport means purchasing, other expenditure for creating new fixed assets, for developing, moderning, rebuilding the existing ones, as well as the value of services related to ownership transfer of existing fixed assets and lands (notary duties, commissions, transport, loading - unloading expenditure) a.s.o.

Rate of natural increase - The population natural increase rate calculates the difference between live-birth rate and mortality rate of the population.

Registered unemployed - the registered unemployed is the person who cumulatively fulfills the conditions under the Law no.76/2002

Registered unemployment rate represents the ratio between the number of unemployed (registered at the agencies for employment) and civil economically active population (unemployed + civil employed, defined according to the methodology of labour force balance).

Resident population - Usual resident population represents all persons of Romanian nationality, foreign or stateless who have their usual residence in Romania.

Usual residence is the place where a person normally spends the daily period of rest, regardless of temporary absences for purposes of recreation, holidays, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage. The usual residence may be the same as the domicile or may differ from it, for the persons who choose to establish their usual residence in a locality other than the locality of domicile in the country or abroad. It is considered having their usual residence in a specific geographic area just people who have lived in that usual residence for a continuous period of at least 12 months prior to reference moment. The resident population includes the persons who immigrated to Romania but excludes the persons who emigrated from Romania.

Staff of the local units - Average number of employed persons = total number of person (salaried and not-salaried) who worked in the enterprise during the reference period, including temporarily transferred staff (who works outside it), paid by the enterprise.

The average monthly net earnings represent the ratio between the net amounts paid to the employees by economic units in the reference month, no matter of the period and the average number of employees. Average number of employees represents a simple arithmetic mean calculated based on daily numbers of employees in the respective month.

The change of domicile is registered in case of persons who left the given locality and proved to have ensured a dwelling in another one. Since 1992, changes of domicile from one sector to another in the Bucharest Municipality are also registered. Changes of domicile in the same locality are not registered. These data include international emigrants.

The civil employed population includes all the persons who work for an income and whose work is usually done in one of the activities of the national economy, being defined as an economic or social

activity, based on a work contract or a free-lance activity (self-employed) in order to get income such as salary, in kind payment, etc. The following categories of persons are included: employees who work in one of the activities of the national economy in the public (integrally of state and public of national interest), mixed, private, cooperative and collective; employers - managers of private units - that employ labour force for the activity of their units; self-employed; unpaid family workers. The civil employed population does not include the armed forces and similar (the personnel of the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Administration and Interior, Romanian Intelligence Office, conscripts), convicts and political and community organisations employees.

The regional gross domestic product is GDP regional correspondent . Gross domestic product (GDP) is equal to the sum of final uses of goods and services by resident institutional units (actual final consumption, gross fixed capital formation) plus exports and minus imports of goods and services.

Turnover from local units - Turnover (excluding VAT) represents the income resulted from sales of goods and commodities, execution of works and provision of services, excluding rebate, commissions and other discounts for the customers. Data on turnover do not include VAT.

II. Introduction

1. Presentation of the cross-border region Bulgaria - Romania

Bulgaria and Romania are two neighbouring countries with a common border, formed by a river and a terrestrial part. The Danube valley forms the natural borderline, which starts from the mouth of the Timok River and ends in Silistra, representing more than 75% of the entire northern border. The terrestrial part crosses South Dobrudzha along the line Silistra - Cape Kartal. The Danube River, apart from being a natural border line, provides a waterway that connects Bulgaria and Romania with the countries of Western and Central Europe. After the construction of the "Rhine-Main-Danube" Canal (1992), the Rhine and Danube rivers had been connected, thus providing a river transport connection between the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea and the Black Sea.

Bulgaria and Romania are connected through the ferry complexes built to connect the Towns of Vidin - Calafat, Oryahovo - Beckett, Ruse - Giurgiu and Silistra - Calarasi. Furthermore, a Danube Bridge 1 and a Danube Bridge 2 have been built across the Danube River, providing a direct railway and road connection between the two countries. In 1954, the first bridge built was opened to provide direct connection between the two Towns and the two countries - the "Friendship Bridge", i.e. the "Ruse - Giurgiu" Bridge. Two more towns are connected in 2013, after the construction of the "New Europe" Bridge to connect Vidin and Calafat.

Besides the common border, Bulgaria and Romania share a common historical past; have similar natural and climatic conditions; always have a number of common interests as neighbouring countries. In 1991, the "Declaration of Neighbourly Relations, Friendship and Cooperation" had been signed in the City of Sofia. Subsequently, a number of bilateral documents had governed the relations between the two countries regarding the trade, cooperation, joint border control, customs cooperation, etc.. Traditionally, commodity exchange between the countries had been intensive, and in 2003 a Bulgarian-Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry had been established.

The two Balkan countries simultaneously joined the European Union in 2007, which favours the relations between them in order to keep developing in a positive direction, in particular associated with the assistance and cooperation in overcoming common issues. At the pre-accession stage, two financial memoranda with the European Union under the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme had been signed in 2001, 2002. Since then, the European Union has promoted the cross-border cooperation, focusing on various thematic areas related to the environmental protection, climate change, employment promotion and labour mobility, etc.

The physical scope of the programme covers a total of fifteen Districts and Counties forming the so-called 'Cross-border region' between Bulgaria and Romania. From the Bulgarian side, these are the eight regions, located on the northern border: Dobrich, Silistra, Ruse, Veliko Tarnovo, Pleven, Vratsa, Montana and Vidin, and on the other side - the seven counties along the southern Romanian borderline: Constanta, Calarasi, Giurgiu, Teleorman, Olt, Dolj and Mehedinti.

One of the most noticeable differences between the Districts and the Counties is in terms of their size - Population Number and Territory Size. Romanian Counties are significantly more populated and vast compared to the Bulgarian ones. However, similar demographic processes may be observed - depopulation, negative mechanical and natural growth, ageing, and lower levels of urbanisation compared to the average for the countries. Similarities and differences are also established in terms of labour market, economic profile, educational structure etc.. For the purpose of this Study, the general profile of each Districts and each County in the cross-border region was described in order to create awareness about the trends and processes at the administrative unit level.

District of Dobrich

General data about the region - location and geographic presentation

The District of Dobrich is in the north-eastern part of Bulgaria, in the territorial scope of the Northeast region. It occupies a total area of 4 720km² or 4.25% of the territory of the country and 32.6% of the territory of the Northeast region.

The District of Dobrich is bordered by the Districts of Varna, Shumen and Silistra, the land border with Romania is to the northeast, and to the east the region is open to the Black Sea.

Its borders with the Black Sea, the Danube river and Romania coincide with the national borders.



Key Features

Network of locations, according to NUTSII and NUTSIII

On the territory of the region, the land cross-border points at the village of Durankulak and the village of Yovkov and the sea cross-border point at the Port of Balchik are located.

The area comprises 8 municipalities: Balchik, General Toshevo, Dobrich, Dobrich-Town, Kavarna, Krushari, Tervel, Shabla. There are 6 Towns in the District, of which Dobrich is the largest and a regional center.

Demographic characteristics

Table: Demographic Statistics data of the District of Dobrich as per 2015

	Population	Men	Women	in the towns	in the villages	Average age	Natural growth	Mechanical growth
2015	180 601	88 255	92 346	124214	56387	44,5	-1539	-668

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

According to the data from 2015, 180 601 people live on the territory of the District, which represents 2.52% of the population of the country. 68.77% of which live in the Towns. For the period 2011 to 2015, a lasting trend of population decline was established. Within five years, the inhabitants of the District decreased by 3.98%, which was 1.61% more than the average for the country. The Natural Growth Rate is negative - 8.5 % and higher than the average for the country by nearly 2.3 points. Compared to the other Districts of the cross-border region, the natural growth in the District of Dobrich is among the low ones.

The proportion of the population 'Under', 'at', 'above' the working-age is close to the indicators for the country: a lower share of the working-age population - 60.2% (at 60.79% for the country) and a higher population growth above the working-age - 24.71% (24.34% for the country). The fundamental reasons for this are due to both the negative natural growth and the negative mechanical growth - displaced persons in 2015 are by 668 more than the settled persons.

Educational structure of the population

The educational structure of the population shows that 19.4% of the population aged 25-64 has a higher education. This indicator is lower than the average for the country (27.5% for the country) by 8.1%; the population with basic and low education is 24.8% (18.1% for the country).

On the territory of the District, in the Town of Dobrich, there are three academic units- a College to the University of Shumen "Bishop Constantine of Preslav", a Higher School of Management (University of Management, Varna), a Technology College of Dobrudzha, Dobrich at the Technical University, Varna.

Short economic presentation

In 2015, the GDP generated per capita of the population amounted to BGN 8002 Mln., which is 35.1% lower than the average for the country. By this Indicator, compared to the other Districts of the cross-border region, the District of Dobrich ranks fifth.

The dynamics in the GVA size shows that for the period from 2011 to 2015 the amount of GVA in mln. € had increased compared to 2011 by BGN 56 Mln..

Also, the share of GVA, similar to trends at national level, in the District of Dobrich is dominated by the Services Sector, followed by the Industrial Sector and the Agricultural Sector. The Tertiary sector (Services Sector) is the most developed in the District, which generates 56.6% of the GVA, followed by the Industry Sector- 27.6% and the Agricultural Sector - 15.6%. For the period from 2011 to 2015, there is an increasing trend of the share of services. In 2015, the relative share of the Agricultural Sector in the added value of the economy in the District of Dobrich (BGN 197 mln) decreased vs. its level in 2011 (BGN 214 Mln.) by 7.9%. In 2015, the Industrial Sector increased its relative weight in the added value of the economy by 15.23% compared to 2011 and reached 27.6%. For the period from 2011 to 2015, there is an increase in the Services Sector by 3.6%.

For the period from 2011 to 2015, a relatively stable growth in the amount of production manufactured in the District was observed. This indicator was annually increasing, as the increase over the entire period was by 17.7%.

In the enterprises structure, micro enterprises (up to 9 employees) predominate. They are 93.4% of the total number of enterprises. The share of companies with more than 250 employees is only 0.1%. The Expenses for the acquisition of TFA increased in parallel with the increase in production volume, from BGN 373192 thousand in 2011 to BGN 389972 thousand in 2015. The increase for the whole period (2011-2015) was by 4.3%. This is indicative of an increase in the investment activity in the District. A growth trend in foreign investment in 2015 compared to the previous 2014 by 45% was noticeable.

Labour force and unemployment

Table: Statistical data on Labour force in the District of Dobrich, as per 2015

	Working-age population	Men of working age	Women of working age	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
2015	108770	57557	51213	60,9	13,8

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

The Labour Market characteristics are determined on the one hand by the deteriorated demographic situation and on the other hand by the growth trend in production and investment. For the period from 2011-2015, the Economic Activity rate and the Employment Rate of people aged 15-64 increased, and in 2015, they were respectively: 70.8% Economic Activity rate (69.3% for the country) and 60.9% Employment Rate (62.9% for the country). At the same time, unemployment decreased - the Employment Rate was 17.3% in 2011, decreasing to 13.8% in 2015, these indicators were more favourable to this District compared to the average for other Districts of the cross-border region.

An important indicator, characterising the labour market and the capacities of employment-enhancing sectors, is the average annual salary of Hired Persons under an employment relationship and an official relationship. In 2015, in the District of Dobrich the average wage was BGN 8084 and although it has been growing for the period from 2011 to 2015 by 20.9%, the same year 2015 it lags significantly behind the average for the country (BGN 10 535).

Current employment trends by sectors

By the end of 2015, the people in employment in the District were 80349. The largest share is in the Sectors of "Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries" - 31 129, "Trade, Transport, Hospitality and Catering" - 17881, "Industry" (excl. Construction) - 1144, "General Government, Education, Human Health and Social Work"- 11275, "Processing Industry"- 10123. There are 2881 people in employment in the Sector of "Professional activities and researches"; "Administrative and ancillary activities, as in comparison to 2011, their number increased by 86.3%. However, in 2012, the costs of Scientific Researches have declined compared to 2013 by 21.2%.

Industrial areas, scientific research and development activities

The main industrial areas in the region are concentrated in the Town of Dobrich and in the Town of Balchik.

Scientific research activities are developed in higher education institutions - College at the University of Shumen "Bishop Constantine of Preslav", Varna University of Management, Dobrudzha Technology College at the Technical University, Varna.

District of Silistra

General data about the region - location and geographic presentation

District of Silistra is located in the eastern part of Northern Bulgaria in the territorial scope of the North Central Region. The region occupies a total area of 2 845 km² or 2.56% of the territory of the country and 18.9% of the territory of the North Central Region.

Silistra borders with Romania on land and through the Danube river to the north and northeast. Furthermore, it borders the Districts of Dobrich, Shumen, Razgrad and Ruse. On the territory of the District, westwards of the Town of Silistra, the Srebarna Lake lies, which is part of the Srebarna Biosphere Reserve included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Key features

Network of settlements, according to NUTS II and NUTS III

The District of Silistra comprises 7 municipalities - Alfatar, Glavinitsa, Dulovo, Kaynardja, Silistra, Sitovo and Tutrakan. There are 5 Towns in the District, as the Town of Silistra is a District center and the largest Town in the region.

Demographic characteristics

Table: Demographics statistical data of the District of Silistra as per 2015

	Population	Men	Women	in the towns	in the villages	Average age	Natural growth	Mechanical growth
2015	113 248	55 774	57 474	50306	62942	46,4	-1027	-395

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

According to data from 2015, 113 248 people live on the territory of the District, which represents 1.58% of the population of the country. 44.42% of them live in the Towns, as Silistra is among the District with the lowest share of urban population. For the period from 2011 to 2015, a lasting trend of population decline was established. Within five years, the population decreased by 4.37%, which is by 2% more than the average for the country. The Natural Growth Rate is negative-9 ‰ and higher than the average for the country by nearly 2.8 points.

The proportion of the population 'Under', 'at', 'above' the working-age is less favourable than the country's indicators, i.e. the share of the working-age population is lower than the one for the country - 58.05% (60.79% for the country), the proportion of the population above the working-age is higher than that of the country - 26.93% (24.34% for the country). The fundamental reasons for this are due both to the negative natural growth and the high negative mechanical growth - in 2015, displaced persons are more than settled persons by 395.

Educational structure of the population

The educational structure of the population shows that 16.4% of the population aged 25-64 has a higher education. This indicator is lower than the average for the country (27.5%) by 11.1%.

On the territory of the District, in the Town of Silistra, there are 2 branches of higher education institutions: Silistra branch at the University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev" and Silistra branch at the Higher School of Agribusiness and Development of Regions, Plovdiv.

Brief Economic Presentation

In 2015, generated GDP per capita of the population amounted to BGN 5933 Mln., which is by 51.9% lower than the average for the country. In relation to the other Districts of the cross-border region, by this indicator, the District of Silistra ranks last.

The dynamics in the size of BDS shows that for the period from 2011 to 2015 the amount of BDS in mln. BGN has almost invariable values, for the Year 2015 it was 584, with a value almost equal to that in the Year 2011 - 585.

The Tertiary sector (Services Sector) is the most developed in the area and generates BGN 340 Mln., which is 58.2% of the GVA, followed by the Agrarian Sector - 23.1% and the Industry Sector - 18.6%. For the period from 2011 to 2015, there were no significant changes in the distribution of shares between the three leading sectors. In 2015, the relative share of the Agricultural sector in the Added Value of the economy in the District of Silistra decreased compared to its level in 2011 by 11%. The Industrial Sector reduced its relative weight in the added value of the economy by 1.8% in 2015 compared to 2011 and marked a slight increase, compared to the previous year 2014, by 3.6%, reaching 16.8% of the GDP. The Service Sector has maintained its relative share over the entire period.

For the period from 2011 to 2015, an increase was observed in the amount of the Production Manufactured in the District. In 2015, this indicator increased by 6.35% vs. 2014. In the enterprises structure, micro enterprises (up to 9 employees) predominate. These are 92.1% of the total number of enterprises. The share of companies with more than 250 employees is only 0.1%.

Expenses for the acquisition of TFA from BGN 149 794 th. in 2011 reached BGN 252 705 th. in 2015, this was indicative of an increase in the investment activity in the District, while at the same time

there was a trend of significant growth in the foreign investment from EUR 7676.3 th. in 2011 to EUR 28803.3 th. in 2015. Despite the growth of foreign investment in the District in 2015, they amount to only 0.12% of the Foreign Investment for the country (EUR 23,163,272.7 th.).

In the enterprises structure, micro enterprises (up to 9 employees) predominate. They are 92.4% of the total number of enterprises. The share of companies with more than 250 employees is only 0.2%.

Table: Labor Force Statistical data in the District of Silistra, as per 2015

	Working-age population	Men of working age	Women of working age	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
2015	66359	35499	30860	49,2	21,8

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

The characteristics of the labour market are determined on the one hand by the deteriorated demographic situation and on the other hand by the trend of growth in production and investment.

The Economic Activity rate and the Employment rate of people aged 15-64, for the period from 2011-2015, followed the trends of increase, as in 2015 these are respectively: the Economic Activity rate 63.1% (69.3% for the country) and the Employment rate 49.2% (with a value of 62.9% for the country).

The Unemployment rate followed trends to increase, and in 2011, the Unemployment rate was 12.5%, while in 2015 it was 21.8%, close to 2.4 times greater than the national average (9.1%).

An important indicator, characterising the labour market and the capacities of employment-enhancing sectors, is the average annual salary of Hired Persons under an employment relationship and an official relationship. In 2015, the average wage in the District of Silistra was BGN 7 4941 and for the period from 2011 to 2015, although it has been growing by 19.1%, it lags significantly behind the country average for the same year (BGN 10 535).

Current employment trends by sectors

By the end of 2015, the people in employment in the District of Silistra were 45 775. The largest is their share in the Sectors of "Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries" - 27 718 (among the 28 districts in the country Silistra has the highest share of the primary sector), "General government; Education; Human health and Social Work"- 7525, "Trade, Transport, Hospitality and Catering"- 7158, "Industry" (excl. "Construction") - 5903, "Processing Industry"- 4846. There were 1066 employed in the Sectors of "Professional activities and research"; "Administrative and ancillary activities", as their number has increased by 393 compared to 2011. In 2015, the people in employment in the Sector of "Creation and Dissemination of Information and Creative Products, Telecommunications" were 109, as their share increased by 9% compared to 2011. The R&D expenditure on research and development activities showed a trend of growth compared to 2011. There was a growth in 2015 to 2011 by 66.2%. In 2015, the people in employment in R&D was 40, i.e. only 0.13% of the people in employment in R & D in the country (29591).

Industrial zones, research and development activities

Scientific research activities are mainly developed in the branches of higher educational institutions - Silistra Branch at the University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev" and Silistra Branch at the Higher School of Agribusiness and Development of the Regions-Town of Plovdiv.

In the District center Silistra, there is a Danubian Industrial Park, conditionally divided into 3 functional and territorial separate areas - Ferry Terminal; Port; Industrial zone.

District of Ruse

General data about the region - location and geographic presentation

District of Ruse is located in the eastern part of the Northern Bulgaria in the territorial scope of the North Central region. The district occupies a total area of 2 859 km² or 2.6% of the territory of the country and 19% of the territory of the North Central region, which ranks it on the 22nd place in Bulgaria and the 13th place in the Bulgarian-Romanian cross-border region.

The northern border of the District of Ruse coincides with the State border with the Republic of Romania and passes along the Danube river

To the East the District borders the Municipality of Tutrakan /District of Silistra/ and the Municipalities of Kubrat and Zavet of the District of Razgrad.

The Municipalities of Svishtov and Polski Trambesh /District of Veliko Tarnovo/, and to the south - the Municipality of Strazhitsa /District of Veliko Tarnovo/, the Municipalities of Popovo and Opaca /District of Targovishte/, the Municipality of Razgrad and the Municipality of Tsar Kaloyan /District of Razgrad/ are located to the West. Thanks to this location, the District of Ruse has wide opportunities for regional cooperation-both with neighbouring Districts and for participation in cross-border cooperation with Romania. In the Town of Ruse - administrative center of the District - the largest River Port in Bulgaria is located, which determines it as an important transport center. The Danube Bridge (Ruse-Giurgiu), passing through the Danube River providing both road and rail transport is located near the District Town.



Key features

Network of settlements, according to NUTS II and NUTS III

The Municipality comprises 8 municipalities: Borovo, Byala, Vetovo, Dve Mogili, Ivanovo, Ruse, Slivopole and Tsenovo. There are 9 Towns in the District, of which Ruse is the largest and most important District center.

Demographic characteristics

Table: Demographics statistical data District of Ruse as per 2015

	Population	Men	Women	in the towns	in the villages	Average age	Natural growth	Mechanical growth
2015	225674	110278	115396	174653	51021	45,4	-1 955	-56

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

By the end of 2015, 225674 people lived in the territory of the District, which forms 3.15% of the population of the country. 77.4% of them lived in the Towns. The trend of population decline characteristic for the country was also valid for the District of Ruse, as compared to the Year 2011, the population of the District declined by 3.4%, which is 1% more than the average for the country. The Natural Growth Rate was negative - 8.7 ‰ and higher than the average for the country by 2.5 points.

The ratio of population 'Under', 'at', 'above' the working-age is less favourable than the indicators for the country, especially at the expense of the higher share of above-working-age population of 26.51% (24.34% for the country) and the low share of under-working-age population of 13.25% (14.87% for the country). In line with the ageing population trends at national level, there are processes of increasing imbalances in the age structure of population developed in the District due to the increase of the relative share of above-working-age inhabitants. The main reason for this is the negative natural growth, i.e. the mechanical growth for the Year 2015 was positive - in 2015, settled persons are by 193 more than displaced persons were.

Educational Structure of population

The educational structure of population is comparable to that at the national level, as 24.4% of the population aged 25-64 has a higher education. On the territory of the District, in the Town of Ruse, there are:

- 1x Higher institution: "Angel Kanchev" University of Ruse;
- 1x Branch of the Higher School in Agribusiness and Development of the Regions (HSADR) - Plovdiv (Agricultural College), offering Bachelor's degree and Master's degree programmes

Brief Economic Presentation

In 2015, generated GDP per capita of the population amounted to BGN 9912, which is 19.5% lower than the average for the country. In 2015, the GDP share in the generally produced for the country for the District of Ruse is 2.5%. According to the Indicator 'GDP per capita', the District of Ruse ranks 8th in the country. By this Indicator, compared to the other Districts of the cross-border region the District of Ruse ranks first.

The dynamics in the GVA size shows that the paces of growth over the period from 2011 to 2015 were close to those for the country.

Similar to the trends at national level, also the GVA share in the District of Ruse is predominant in the Services Sector, followed by the Industrial Sector and the Agricultural Sector. The most developed Sector of the District is the Tertiary Sector (Services Sector), which generated 57.8% of the GVA, followed by the Industrial- 35.4% and the Agricultural Sector - 6.8%.

In 2015, the relative share of the Agricultural Sector in the added value of the economy in the District of Ruse has decreased, compared to its level in 2011, by 1.9%. The relative weight of the Industrial Sector in the added value of the economy increased by 2.3% in 2015 compared to 2011 and reached 35.4%. At the same time, for the period from 2011 to 2015, the share of Services Sector decreased by close to 0.6% (58.4% in 2011). The Agrarian Sector is mainly developed in the Municipalities of Borovo, Byala, Ivanovo, Slivo pole.

For the period from 2011 to 2015, a relatively stable growth in the amount of production manufactured in the District was observed. This Indicator was annually increasing, with an increase of 28.3% over the entire period. Micro enterprises (up to 9 employees) predominate in the structure of enterprises. They represent 90.8% of the total number of enterprises. Companies with more than 250 employees are only 0.2%.

In parallel with the increase in production volume, Expenses for the acquisition of TFA increased from BGN 386 368 th. in 2011 to BGN 500 056 th. in 2015. This is indicative of an increase in the investment activity in the area, while at the same time there was a trend of growth in the foreign investment from EUR 335,086.3 mln. in 2011 to 337,023.4 in 2015. The share of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in enterprises of the non-financial sector, compared to the total amount of foreign investments made in the sector for the country, was respectively 1.5% and 38.4% of FDI within the North Central region. By foreign investments size, the District of Ruse ranks ninth in the country. In 2015, mainly, foreign investments are made in industrial enterprises of the District and in the Services Sector (trade; repair of cars and motorcycles; transport, warehousing and post; hotels and

restaurants management). In 2015, together these two activities formed 95.1% of the total volume of FDI.

Labor Force and Unemployment

Table: Labor Force Statistical data in the District of Ruse, as per 2015

	Working-age population	Men of working age	Women of working age	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
2015	174653	85111	89542	66,00	9,0

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

The characteristics of the labour market are determined on the one hand by the deteriorated demographic situation and on the other hand - by the trend of growth in production and investment. The Economic Activity rate and the Employment rate of people aged 15-64, for the period from 2011-2015, were steadily rising. At the same time, unemployment decreased from 11.6% in 2011 to 9% in 2015. These Indicators were more favourable for the District than the average for the country and for the other Districts of the cross-border region. An important indicator characterizing the labor market and the capacities of the sectors to increase employment is the average annual wage of people in employment relations and official relations. In 2015, the average wage in the District of Ruse was BGN 8 563, and although it has increased over the period 2011-2015 by 20.7%, it lags significantly behind the average for the same year (10 535 BGN).

Current employment trends by sectors

By the end of 2015, the number of people in employment in the District was 100,907. Their largest share was in the Sectors of: Industry (with the exception of Construction) 30,316, Processing industry - 27,639, "Trade, Transport, Hotels and Restaurants" - 2369, "Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries" - 19 681, "Government; Education, Humanitarian Health and Social Work" - 14194. The number of people in employment in the Sectors of: "Professional activities and scientific research"; "Administrative and Support Activities" was 414, as compared to 2011 their number increased by 11.5%. Research and development expenditure has seen a steady trend of increase. Compared to 2011, there was a growth by 68.6%. At the same time, the number of people in R&D employment also raised - from 526 in 2011 to 998 in 2015.

Industrial areas, scientific research and development activities

The main industrial areas in the District are concentrated in the Municipality of Ruse. There is an Industrial Area "Ruse Industrial Park" built in the Town of Ruse.

The leading economic productions and services in the Municipality are:

- Metallurgy, machine building and metalworking
- Manufacture of chemicals, chemical products and chemical fibers;
- Manufacture of textiles, clothing and other articles of apparel;
- Manufacture of food products;
- Construction;
- Tourism;
- Hotels and restaurants management.

The presence of a higher school with proven research potential creates conditions for training of executives for key positions in the leading industries of the Municipality.

District of Veliko Tarnovo

General data about the region - location and geographic presentation

District of Veliko Tarnovo is located in the central part of Northern Bulgaria and is situated within the boundaries of the North Central region. It occupies 4.2% of the country's territory and 31.1% of the territory of NCR. It borders Romania through the Municipality of Svishtov. One of the Transdanubian regions (TDR) falls within the territory of the District: Nikopol - Turnu Magurele - Belene - Svishtov - Zimnicea. The largest Town and the District center is the Town of Veliko Tarnovo. The good geographic-transport position and the rich cultural heritage are an important prerequisite for the development of the District.



Key features

Network of settlements, according to NUTS II and NUTS III

The District comprises 10 municipalities, in economic terms the most developed ones are: Veliko Tarnovo, Gorna Oryahovitsa and Svishtov. The Municipalities of Pavlikeni and Lyaskovets have important, albeit a minor contribution, to the development of the District.

The District of Veliko Tarnovo is characterized by the existence of settlements of the so-called 'scattered type' (former hamlets and huts settlements) in the mountain areas, which makes it difficult for them to be serviced and consequently leads to their depopulation.

Demographic characteristics

Table: Demographics statistical data District of Veliko Tarnovo for 2015

	Population	Men	Women	in the towns	in the villages	Average age	Natural growth	Mechanical growth
2015	245006	118456	126550	171215	73791	44.7	- 2018	-758

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

By the end of 2015, 245 006 people lived in the territory of the District, which makes 3,42% of the population of the country. 69,9% of them lived in the towns. The trend of population decline characteristic for the country is also valid for the Veliko Tarnovo, as the population of the District declined by 4,4% compared to the Year 2011, which is by 2% more than the average for the country. Compared to the other Districts of the cross-border region, the natural growth in the District of Veliko Tarnovo is the highest.

The ratio of population 'Under', 'at', 'above' the working-age is less favourable than the Indicators for the country, owing especially to a higher share of above-working-age population - 26,59% (24,34% for the country) and a low share of below-working-age population - 13,32% (14,87% for the country). The main reasons for this are both the negative Natural growth and the negative Mechanical growth - settled persons in 2015 were by 758 more than displaced persons were.

Educational Structure of population

The educational structure of the population is comparable to that at the national level, whereas 26,9% of the population aged 25-64 has a higher education. By this indicator, the District is ranked at first place among the Danubian Districts on the territory of Bulgaria. There are two university centers in the territory of the District - Veliko Tarnovo and Svishtov. There are 3 higher education institutions in these towns:

- “St. Cyril and St. Methodius” University of Veliko Tarnovo
- “Vasil Levski” National Military University, Veliko Tarnovo
- “Dimitar Tsenov” Academy of Economics, Svishtov

Brief economic presentation

In 2015, generated GDP per capita of the population amounted to BGN 8288 Mln., which is by 33% lower than the average for the country. Compared to the other Districts of the cross-border region, by this indicator, the District of Veliko Tarnovo ranks third after the Districts of Ruse and Vratsa.

The GVA dynamics shows that the growth rates for the period from 2011 to 2015 were close to the average for the country. The most developed sector in the District is the tertiary sector (service sector), which generated 62.3% of GVA, followed by the Industry - 29.5% and the agrarian sector - 8.2%. At the same time, over the period from 2011 to 2015, the share of Services sector decreased by nearly 5% (67.1% in 2011). An important sector of the tertiary sector is Tourism, which is traditional for the largest Towns in the Districts, as its development is relatively steady.

The agrarian sector is mainly developed in the Municipalities of Pavlikeni, Polski Trambesh, Suhindol, Lyaskovets and Elena. Over the period from 2011 to 2015 there was also a relatively steady growth in the volume of production manufactured in this District. This indicator was annually increasing, with a growth of 20.4% over the whole period. Microenterprises (up to 9 employees) predominate in the structure of enterprises. They represent 91.6% of the total number of enterprises. Companies with more than 250 employees are only 0.2%.

In parallel with the increase in production volume, the expenses for the acquisition of TFA increased from BGN 390,400 th. in 2011 to BGN 500,926 th. in 2015. This is indicative of an increase in the investment activity in the District, while at the same time there is a trend of growth in Foreign Investment.

Labor Force and Unemployment

Table: Labor Force Statistical data in the District of Veliko Tarnovo, as per 2015

	Working-age population	Men of working age	Women of working age	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
2015	156987	81719	75268	65,00	6,8

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

The characteristics of the labour market are determined on the one hand by the deteriorated demographic situation and on the other hand by the trend of growth in production and investment.

The Economic Activity rate and the Employment rate of people aged 15-64, for the period from 2011-2015, were steadily rising. At the same time, unemployment decreased from 11,7% in 2011 to 6,8% in 2015. These Indicators are more favourable for the District than the average for the country and for the other Districts of the cross-border region.

In 2015, the average wage for the District of Veliko Tarnovo amounted to 8 213 BGN, and although it has increased over the period 2011-2015 by 26,6%, it lags significantly behind the average for the

same year (10 535 BGN). By this indicator, the District ranks third among the District of the cross-border region after Vratsa and Ruse.

Current employment trends by sectors

By the end of 2015, the number of people in employment in the District was 107 944. Their share is the largest in the Sectors of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - 26.8%, Trade, transport, hotels and restaurants - 21.81%, Processing industry - 21.37%, Government; Education, Human Health and Social Work - 16,89%. The number of people in employment in the Sectors of: Professional activities and research; Administrative and auxiliary activities is 2.73%; compared to 2011 their number increased by 16%. In 2015, people in employment in the Sector of Creation and dissemination of information and creative products were 0.38%, as their share decreased by 17.34% compared to 2011. Research and development expenditure has seen a sustained tendency to increase. The growth compared to the previous year was almost by 50%. At the same time, the number of people in R&D employment also increased - from 654 in 2014 to 860 in 2015.

Industrial areas, scientific research and development activities

The main industrial areas in the District are in the Towns of Veliko Tarnovo, Gorna Oryahovitsa, Svishtov, Lyaskovets and Strazhitsa. The District ranks among the top places in the country (excluding Sofia) by concentration of average technological production and market services.

Scientific research activities are mainly developed in the university centers of the territory of the District. There is an "Institute for Research and Innovation activity" at the National Military University "Vasil Levski" which performs research and development activities in the field of national security, defense and warfare. On the territory of the District of Veliko Tarnovo, there is also an Experimental Station of soybeans - Pavlikeni at the Institute of Fodder crops - Pleven, which performs research, experimental-production, consultancy and expertise in the field of selection and agrarian engineering of soybeans, forage peas and vetch.

District of Pleven

General data about the region-location and geographic presentation

District Plevén is located in the central part of Northern Bulgaria and is situated within the north western region. It occupies 4.2% of the country's territory and 24.4% of the territory of NWR. It borders the Danube river to the north, resp. Romania by the Municipalities of Belene, Nikopol, Gulyantsi and Dolno bishopric. One of the Transdanubian regions (TDR) falls within the territory of the District: Nikopol - Turnu Magurele - Belene - Svishtov - Zimnicea.

The largest town and District center is Plevén.



Key features

Network of settlements, according to NUTS II and NUTS III

The District comprises 10 municipalities, in economic terms (except for the Municipality of Pleven), the most developed ones are: Belene, Cherven Bryag, Levski, Knezha and Dolna Mitropolia. The District maintains good relations with the Counties of Teleorman and Olt on the Romanian side.

Demographic characteristics

Table: Demographic statistical data of the District of Plevenas per 2015

	population	Men	Women	in the towns	in the villages	Average age	Natural growth	Mechanical growth
2015	251986	123080	128906	167220	84766	47,3	-2528	-1235

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

According to the data of 2015, 251 986 people lived in the territory of the District, which makes 3,5 % of the population of the country. 66,36 % of them lived in the towns. For the period from 2011 to 2015, there was a trend of population decline. Within five years, the population declined by 5.57%, which is by 2.2% more than the average for the country. The natural growth rate is negative - 10 ‰ and higher than the average for the country by almost 4 points. Compared to the other Districts of the cross-border region, the natural growth in the District of Pleven is the closest to that in the Districts of Vratsa and Silistra.

The ratio of population 'Under', 'at', 'above' the working-age is less favourable than the Indicators for the country, owing especially to the higher share of above working-age population - 56,38 % (at 60,79% for the country) and a significantly higher growth rate of working-age population - 29,18 % (24,34 % for the country). This result speaks of a pronounced negative Mechanical growth - displaced persons in 2015 were by 1235 more than settled persons. Compared to the other Districts of the cross-border region, this indicator is the most unfavourable for the District of Pleven.

Educational Structure of population

The educational structure of the population shows that 24.6% of the population aged 25-64 has a higher education. This indicator is lower than the average for the country by 2.9%, but on the other hand, the pace of growth of the active population with higher education is by 2 points higher than the average for the country.

On the territory of the District, the only one higher education institutions for the northwestern region are located:

- Medical University, Pleven
- Faculty of "Aviation" at the National Military University "Vasil Levski", Veliko Tarnovo in the Town of Dolna Mitropolia.

Brief economic presentation

In 2015, generated GDP per capita of the population amounted to BGN 7039 million, which is 43% lower than the average for the country. Compared to the other Districts of the cross-border region by this indicator, the District of Pleven ranks in one of the last places before Vidin and Silistra. The dynamics in the GVA size shows that the pace of growth over the period from 2011 to 2015 was by 2 points below the average for the country.

The Tertiary Sector (the Services Sector) was the most developed sector in the District, which generated 62.11% of GVA, followed by the Industry - 27.92% and the Agricultural Sector - 9.97%. Over the period from 2011 to 2015, a trend of growth in the share of services stands out. With respect to the development trends of the other two sectors, a reduction in the share of the Agricultural Sector was noticeable at the expense of the Industry.

Over the period from 2011 to 2015, with respect to the size of the production manufactured, fluctuating changes were observed, as a sustained tendency of increase in their size was established after 2013.

The Expenses of Tangible Fixed Assets showed declining trends for the period from 2012 to 2014, and in 2015 there was an increase of 31.3% compared to the previous year. The increase, compared to 2012 when the decline in the Expenses of Tangible Fixed Assets started, was only 2.6%. In parallel, after 2013, the amount of foreign investments steadily decreased from EUR 311,089.3 th. in 2013 to EUR 282,478.7 th. in 2015. This is indicative of the fact that the District is not particularly attractive for foreign investments, which constitute only 1.22% of the investments in the country.

In the enterprises structure, micro enterprises (up to 9 employees) predominate. They are 91.9% of the total number of enterprises. Companies with more than 250 employees are only 0.2%.

Labor Force and Unemployment

Table: Labor Force Statistical data in the District of Pleven, as per 2015

	Working-age population	Men of working age	Women of working age	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
2015	142081	76295	65786	61,2	9,4

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

The characteristics of the labour market are determined on the one hand by the deteriorated demographic situation and on the other hand by the trend of growth in production and investment.

The Economic Activity rate and the Employment rate of people aged 15-64, for the period from 2011-2015 also followed the decreasing and increasing trends, by 67.5% (69.3% for the country) and 61.2% employment rate (62.9% for the country) respectively.

The unemployment rate decreased from 12% in 2011 to 9.2% in 2015, although compared to the previous 2014, there was an increase of 0.1%. This indicator for the District of Pleven is commensurate with the average for the country (9.1%).

In 2015, the average wage for the District of Pleven was 7 892 BGN, and although it has increased over the period between 2011 and 2015 by 20,7%, it lags significantly behind the average for the same year (10 535 BGN). By this indicator, the District ranks six among the Districts of the cross-border region before the Districts of Silistra and Vidin.

Current employment trends by sectors

By the end of 2015, people in employment in the District of Pleven were 102 094. Their largest share was in the Sectors of : „Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries“ - 27,09 %, „Processing industry “ - 20,35 %, „Government; Education, Human Health and Social Work“ - 19,93 %, „Trade, transport, hotels and restaurants“ - 19,49%. People in employment in the Sectors of: „Professional activities and research; Administrative and auxiliary activities“ were 3,27%, as compared to 2011 their number increased by 10,97%. In 2015, people in employment in the Sector of „Creation and dissemination of information and creative products telecommunications“ was 0,8% as their share decreased by 6,9% compared to 2011. Research and development expenditure has seen a sustained trend of growth. The growth compared to the previous year was 127%. At the same time, the number of people in R&D employment also increased - from 573 in 2014 to 718 in 2015. This is an evidence of the use of the R&D potential in the District of Pleven, which was defined in the national "Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation 2014-2020" as one of the highest and more commensurate with the Districts of Varna, Ruse, Bourgas etc.

Industrial areas, scientific research and development activities

The main industrial areas in the District are: Pleven, Telish and Dolna Mitropolia.

Scientific research activities are mainly developed in the university centers of the territory of the District.

Medical University, Pleven conducts scientific researches in the field of Medicine and Medications. There is a Research Center to the University. The Faculty of Aviation in the Town of Dolna Mitropolia, carries out researches in the field of: Mathematics and Physics, Mechanical Engineering, Aviation and Space Engineering, Air Transport Management and Operation, etc.

In the territory of the District of Pleven, there are also an "Institute of Vine and Wine", which carries out scientific and research, scientific applied and production activities in the field of Vine and Wine, an "Institute of fodder crops" operating in the field of Selection and Seed Production fodder crops, technology and ecology of forage crops, canning, quality grading and use of forage crops, an "Institute of Maize", Knezha etc..

District Vratsa

General data about the region-location and geographic presentation

District Vratsa is located in the North-western Bulgaria and is situated within the north western region. It occupies 3.3% of the territory of the country and 19% of the territory of NWR. To the north, the District borders, through the Danube River, with Romania. The Municipalities of Kozloduy and Oryahovo, which border with Dolj County, Romania are in the northernmost part of the Danube River. A ferry Oryahovo and a NPP Kozloduy are operating in its territory. Within the District, there is a direct road connection with Romania via the Danube Bridge Vidin-Calafat.



Key features

Network of settlements, according to NUTS II and NUTS III

The largest Town and the District center is the town of Vratsa. The District comprises 10 municipalities, as the largest ones are: Vratsa, Mezdra, Kozloduy and Byala Slatina.

Demographic characteristics

Table: Demographics statistical data District of Vratsa, as per 2015

	population	Men	Women	in the towns	in the villages	Average age	Natural growth	Mechanical growth
2015	172007	84688	87319	99435	72572	46,4	-1968	-1194

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

According to the data of 2015, 172 007 people lived in the territory of the District, which makes 2,4% of the population of the country. 57,8 % of them lived in the towns. In 2015, the population of the District annually declined by around 1.5% as compared to 2011 the number decreased by 6.85%. This is almost 4.5 points more than the average for the country. The Natural Growth Rate is negative -

11.3 ‰ and higher than the average for the country by more than 5%. In comparison with the other Districts of the cross-border region, the natural growth in the District of Vratsa is one of the lowest (after the Districts of Vidin and Montana).

The ratio of population 'Under', 'at', 'above' the working-age is less favourable than the Indicators for the country, owing especially to the higher share of above-working-age population - 58,33 ‰ (at 60,79% for the country) and the significantly higher growth rate of above-working-age population - 27,34 ‰ (24,34% for the country). The main reasons for this are due to both the negative Natural growth and the negative Mechanical growth - displaced persons 2015 were by 1194 more than settled persons were. By this indicator, the District ranks at one of the first places among the Danube regions, after the District of Pleven.

Educational Structure of population

The educational structure of the population is significantly less favourable than that at national level, especially with regard to the share of the population aged between 25-64 with higher education - 21.1% (27.5% for the country) and the high share of the population with primary and lower education - 22.2% (18.1% for the country). Most likely, the reason for this is the lack of higher education institutions on the territory of the District.

In the District of Vratsa there are only subsidiaries of higher education institutions of other towns of the country, respectively:

- Branch of "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" VTU, Veliko Tarnovo
- Branch of "Prof. Dr. Ivan Mitev-Vratsa, at the Medical University - Sofia.

Brief economic presentation

In 2015, GDP generated per capita of the population amounted to BGN 9305, which was 24.6% lower than the average for the country. Compared to the other Districts of the cross-border region by this indicator, the District of Vratsa ranks second - after the District of Ruse.

The dynamics in the size of GVA showed hesitant tendencies. For the period from 2011 to 2015, the amount of GVA showed a decrease in 2013 and 2015 compared to the previous years, resulting from the reduction of GVA in the industry sector.

The industry sector (the secondary sector-processing) is the most developed and generates 46.92% of the GVA, followed by the Services Sector - 42.41% and the Agricultural Sector - 10.67% percent. In tracing long-term trends, it is noticeable that the Industry Sector gradually collapses its share at the expense of the Tertiary Sector (the Services).

The Agrarian Sector is mainly developed in Byala Slatina, Vratsa and Krivodol. For the period from 2011 to 2015, fluctuating changes in the output size were observed, as after 2013, a sustained tendency to increase their size was established. In contrast to the size of the production manufactured, the expenses of Tangible Fixed Assets decreased in 2013 and 2015, compared to the previous years, and in 2015, the reduction was nearly by 16%.

At the same time, a lasting trend for a reduction of foreign investments was established, which in 2015 decreased by 37.94% compared to the previous years and by 50.38% compared to 2011.

In the enterprises structure, micro enterprises (up to 9 employees) predominate. They are 92.4% of the total number of enterprises. Companies with more than 250 employees are only 0.1%.

Labor Force and Unemployment

Table: Labor Force Statistical data in the District of Vratsa, as per 2015

	<i>Working-age population</i>	<i>Men of working age</i>	<i>Women of working age</i>	<i>Employment rate</i>	<i>Unemployment rate</i>
2015	100334	54177	46157	50,3	17,7

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

The characteristics of the labour market are determined on the one hand by the deteriorated demographic situation and on the other hand by the trend of growth in production and investment. The Economic Activity rate and the Employment rate of people aged 15-64, for the period from 2011-2015 decreased compared to the previous year from 64.4% to 61%. In parallel, the unemployment rate maintained very high levels - 17.7% in 2015, which is almost twice higher than the average for the country (9.1%).

By this indicator, the District ranks in one of the last places among the Danubian Districts, after Silistra and Vidin.

Current employment trends by sectors

By the end of 2015, people in employment in the District were 62 248. Their share was the largest in the Sectors of: „Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries“ - 28,93%, „Government; Education, Human Health and Social Work“ - 20,12%. „Trade, transport, hotels and restaurants“ - 19,09 % „Processing industry “ -14,01%. People in employment in the Sectors of: „Professional activities and research; Administrative and auxiliary activities“ were 2,83 %, as compared to 2011 their share increased by more than 1 %. People in employment in the Sector of „Creation and dissemination of information and creative products; telecommunications“ for the Year 2015 was 0,44 %.

Research and development expenditure in 2015 increased compared to the previous year by more than four times. At the same time, in 2015, the number of people in R&D employment increased from 743 through 2014 to 3795.

The average wage in the District of Vratsa in 2015 was 10332 BGN and marked growth for the period from 2011 to 2015 by 19.35%. By this indicator, the District ranks first among the Danubian regions and approaches the average for the country Indicator of 10 535 BGN. This is mainly due to the high amount of wages at Kozloduy NPP.

Industrial areas, scientific research and development activities

The main industrial areas in the District are in the Towns of Vratsa and Kozloduy. A "Silk" textile cluster is running its business activity on the territory of the District.

Business representatives from the region are part of the global European Network (Enterprise Europe network) to boost the growth of European small and medium-sized businesses.

Scientific and research activities are developed in structures such as: "Experimental Station of Sericulture and Agriculture", Vratsa, which carries out complex scientific and scientific-applied research in the field of Sericulture.

District of Montana

General data about the region-location and geographic presentation

District of Montana is located in the western part of Northern Bulgaria and is situated within the northwestern region. It occupies 3.3% of the country's territory and 5.25% of the territory of NWR. It borders Romania through the municipalities of Valchedram and Lom, which open to the Danube river. To the southwest, it borders with Serbia.

Key features



PROJECT "BG RO MOBILITY"

Network of settlements, according to NUTS II and NUTS III

The largest Town and District center is the Town of Montana. The District comprises 11 municipalities, as the largest on in terms of population are the Municipalities of Montana, Lom and Berkovitsa.

Demographic characteristics

Table: Demographics statistical data District of Montana, as per 2015

	population	Men	Women	in the towns	in the villages	Average age	Natural growth	Mechanical growth
2015	137188	67227	69961	87012	50176	47,7	- 1832	-330

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

By the end of 2015, 137 188 people lived in the territory of the District, which makes 1,92 % of the population of the country. 63,43% of them lived in the towns. Population of the District has been steadily decreasing, as compared to 2011, the population of the District declined by 6%, which is 3,6% more than the average for the country. The Natural Growth Rate is negative - 13,1‰ and lower than the average for the country by more than 7 percent. In comparison with the other Districts of the cross-border region, the natural growth in the District of Montana is one of the lowest (after the District of Vidin).

The ratio of population 'Under', 'at', 'above' the working-age is less favourable than the Indicators for the country, owing especially to the lower share of working-age population - 55,91 % (at 60,79% for the country) and the significantly lower growth rate of above-working-age population- 29,74% (24,34% for the country). The high value of negative natural growth is the main reasons for this. The mechanical growth indicator is quite favorable than the average for the country. Displaced persons in 2015 were by 330 people more than settled persons (4247 for the country), as by this indicator the District of Montana ranks second, after the District of Ruse.

Educational Structure of population

The educational structure of population is significantly less favourable than at national level, in terms of higher education graduates. Population aged 25 - 64 with higher education makes 17.3%, which is by 10% less than the average for the country-27.5%. On the other hand, it is noticeable that the share of population with secondary education is well above the average for the country - 63.2% (54.4% for the country). By this indicator, the District ranks second, after the District of Vidin. In the District, there are no higher education institutions or branches thereof.

Brief economic presentation

In 2015, GDP generated per capita of the population amounted to BGN 7270 BGN, which is by 41% lower than the average for the country. In relation to the other Districts of the cross-border region by this indicator, the District of Montana ranks fifth, before the district of Silistra, Vidin and Pleven. For the period from 2011 to 2015, GVA marks a growth of 8.57%. The Tertiary Sector (Services sector) is the most developed in the District, generating 54.66% of GVA, followed by the industry - 28.54% and the agricultural sector - 16.69%. An increase in the absolute size of the GVA was observed in all the Sectors. For the period 2011-2015, a relatively stable growth in the size of production in the District was observed, with the exception of 2012 when a drop was recorded. For the whole period, this indicator increased by 26.31%.

Expenditures for the acquisition of Tangible Fixed Assets in the period from 2011 to 2014 ranged within BGN 165 937 th. in 2011 to BGN 140 311 th. in 2014. In 2015, there was a significant growth of up to BGN 240 820 th. which forms a growth of 71, 63% compared to the previous year.

At the same time, foreign investment after 2013 marked a decline by more than 28%. In the structure of enterprises, micro enterprises (up to 9 employees) predominate. They are 92% of the total number of enterprises. Companies with more than 250 employees are only 0.2%.

Labor Force and Unemployment

Table: Labor Force Statistical data in the District of Montana, as per 2015

	Working-age population	Men of working age	Women of working age	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
2015	76702	41526	35176	53,7	8,2

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

The characteristics of the labour market are largely determined by the aggravated demographic situation. The decline in the working-age population, leads respectively to a decrease in the economically active population. The Economic Activity rate of individuals aged 15-64 years in 2015 significantly decreased compared to the previous year - from 67.1% to 58.5%. The Employment rate was maintained at a relatively constant level, within 53%, except for 2014 when it has reached 55.9%. The Unemployment rate in 2015 marked a significant decline from 16.3% in 2014 to 8.2% in 2015, making it even more favourable than the average for the country (9.1%). However, given the worsen economic situation and the demographic characteristic of the District, the unemployment reduction is rather as a result of the reduction in the economic activity of population than the economic development of the region.

In 2015, the average wage in the District of Montana was BGN 7 971, which is 32.17% less than the average wage for the country for the same year (10 535 BGN). By this indicator, the District ranks in one of the last places among the districts of the cross-border region, after the district of Vidin, Silistra and Pleven.

Current employment trends by sectors

By the end of 2015, people in employment in the District were 50619. Their share is the largest in the Sectors of: „Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries“ - 30,64%, followed by the „Processing industry“ - 19,35%, „Government; Education, Human Health and Social Work“ - 19,78% and „Trade, transport, hotels and restaurants“ - 18,8%. People in employment in the Sectors of: „Professional activities and research; Administrative and auxiliary activities“ were 2,62 %, as compared to 2011 their number has increased. In 2015, people in employment in the Sector of „Creation and dissemination of information and creative products; telecommunications“ were 0,48% as their share has increased compared to 2011. Research and development expenditure are negligible and make 0.11% of their total size for the country. The number of people in R &D employment is also symbolic - 72 people.

Industrial areas, scientific research and development activities

Montana Technology Park operates on the territory of the District - Production, storage and processing of agricultural produce; Food and beverage industry; Maintenance, storage and repair of agricultural machinery.

District of Vidin

General data about the region-location and geographic presentation

District Vidin is located in the north-western part of Bulgaria in the territorial scope of north-western region. The District occupies a total area of 3025 km² or 2.72% of the territory of the country and 15.8% of the territory of the north-western region.

The District borders to the North with the Republic of Romania, to the West it is next to the Republic of Serbia, to the South it is surrounded by the Balkan Mountains, while to the East it borders with the District of Montana.

The northern border - the Danube River determines the possibility of direct connections with all the countries of the Danube basin. Due to its geographic location, the District operates as an input-exit artery of the country to Europe. Two trans-European corridors pass through the District-No4 Craiova (Romania-Vidin-Sofia-Kulata) and No7 (Rhine-Main-Danube).



Key features

Network of settlements, according to NUTS II and NUTS III

The District comprises 11 municipalities: Vidin, Boynitsa, Bregovo, Belogradchik, Gramada, Dimovo, Kula, Makresh, Novo Selo, Ruzhintsi, Chuprene. There are 7 Towns in the District, of which the largest and District center is the Town of Vidin.

Demographic characteristics

Table: Demographics statistical data District of Vidin, as per 2015

	population	Men	Women	in the towns	in the villages	Average age	Natural growth	Mechanical growth
2015	91 235	44 536	46 699	58087	33148	49,6	-1540	-586

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

According to the data of 2015, 91 235 people lived in the territory of the District, which makes 1,28 % of the population of the country. 63,67% of them lived in the towns. For the period from 2011 to 2015 a lasting tendency of population decline was established. Within five years, the population decreased by 9.04%, which was 6.67% more than the average for the country. The Natural Growth Rate is negative-16.7 % and higher than the average for the country by nearly 10 points. In comparison with the other Districts of the cross-border region, the natural growth in the District of Vidin is the lowest one.

The ratio of population 'Under', 'at', 'above' the working-age is less favourable than the Indicators for the country, owing mostly to the lower share of the working-age population - 54.11% (at 60.79% for the country) and the significantly higher growth rate of above-working-age population - 32.95% (24.34% for the country). Both the negative Natural growth and the very high negative Mechanical growth are fundamental reasons for this - displaced persons in 2015 were by 586 more than settled persons.

Educational Structure of population

The educational structure of population shows that 21.5% of population aged 25-64 has a higher education. This indicator is lower than the average for the country by 6%. On the territory of the District, in the Town of Vidin there is a higher education institution - a subsidiary of the University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev".

Brief economic presentation

In 2015, GDP generated per capita of the population amounted to BGN 6258 Mln., which is by 49.2% lower than the average for the country. Compared to the other Districts of the cross-border region by this indicator, the District of Vidin ranks in the last place before the District of Silistra.

The dynamics in the GVA size shows that for the period from 2011 to 2015 the amount of GVA in mln. BGN increased by BGN 909 Mln.

The most developed sector in the District is the Tertiary sector (services sector), which generates 66.7% of GVA, followed by the Agrarian Sector - 16.8% and the Industry Sector - 16.4%. Over the period from 2011 to 2015, there is a trend of growth in the share of Services. With respect to the development trends of the other two sectors, a reduction in the share of the Industry Sector is noticeable at the expense of the Agrarian Sector. In 2015, the relative share of the Agrarian Sector in the added value of the economy in the District of Vidin decreased compared to its level in 2011 by 3.4%. In 2015, the Industrial Sector increased its relative weight in the added value of the economy by 7.3% compared to 2011 and reached 16.4%. At the same time, for the period from 2011 to 2015, the Service Sector retained its share.

The Expenditure of Tangible Fixed Assets has seen trends of reduction in 2013 and 2014, and in 2015 there was an increase by 44.7% compared to the previous year. The increase, compared to 2012 when the decrease in the cost of Tangible Fixed Assets started, was approximately by 27.9%. The amount of Foreign Investment marked trends of growth, as in 2011 from EUR 33057.9th. in 2015 Foreign Investment reached EUR 77842.1th.. Despite the foreign investments growth in the District in 2015, they form only 0.33% of the Foreign Investment for the country (EUR 23,163,272.7 th.).

In the structure of enterprises, micro enterprises (up to 9 employees) predominate. They are 92.4% of the total number of enterprises. Companies with more than 250 employees are only 0.2%.

Labor Force and Unemployment

Table: Labor Force Statistical data in the District of Vidin, as per 2015

	Working-age population	Men of working age	Women of working age	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
2015	49373	26969	22404	58,8	18,8

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

The characteristics of the labour market are determined on the one hand by the deteriorated demographic situation and on the other hand by the trend of growth in production and investment. The Economic Activity rate and the Employment rate of people aged 15-64, for the period from 2011-2015 followed the trends of increase, as in 2015 the Economic Activity rate was 72.3% (69.3% for the country) and Employment rate was 58.8% (with a value of 62.9% for the country), respectively. The Unemployment rate followed variable trends of increase and decrease, and in 2011 the Unemployment rate was 19.8%, following a modest decrease in 2012 and 2013 and a sharp increase in 2014 to 22.2%. In 2015, the Unemployment rate was 18.8%, two times bigger than the average for the country (9.1%).

The average wage in the District of Vidin in 2015 was BGN 7 011 and although it showed growth for the period from 2011 to 2015 by 21%, it lags significantly behind the average for the country for the

same year (10 535 BGN). By this indicator, the District ranks last among the Districts of the cross-border region.

Current employment trends by sectors

By the end of 2015, people in employment in the District Vidin were 31 546. Their share is the largest in the Sectors of: „Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries“ - 10 673, „Government; Education, Human Health and Social Work “ - 7031, „Trade, transport, hotels and restaurants“ - 5 926, „Industry (with the exception of Construction)“ - 4271, „Processing industry “ - 3387. People in employment in the Sectors of: „Professional activities and research; Administrative and auxiliary activities“ were 1291, as compared to 2011 their number increased by 644. People in employment in the Sector of „Creation and dissemination of information and creative products; telecommunications“ for the Year 2015 were 164, as their share increased by 3% compared to 2011. Research and development expenditure showed a slight trend of increase compared to 2013. In 2015, compared to 2013, it was 14.4%. In 2015, people in R&D employment were 48, which is only 0.16% of people in R & D employment in the country.

Industrial areas, scientific research and development activities

The opening of a branch of the University of Ruse in Vidin is a prerequisite for the development of educational and scientific research activities.

County of Constanța

General data about the region-location and geographic presentation

County of Constanța is located in South-eastern Romania, bordering to the North with the County of Tulcea, to the East by the Black Sea, to the South by the Bulgarian Districts of Dobrich and Silistra, and to the West by the Counties of Calarasi, Ialomita and Braila. The County is spread over an area of 7 071,29 km², which ranks it eighth in terms of size in Romania and first in terms of size in the cross-border region of Bulgaria-Romania.

On the territory of the County, in the Town of the same name, the largest Port on the Black Sea is located, and it is one of the largest in Europe, making it an important transport and economic center.



Key features

Network of settlements, according to NUTS II and NUTS III

According to the Common Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS), the County of Constanța is part of the Southeastern Region (NUTS II), which includes the Counties of Braila, Buzau, Constanța, Galați, Tulcea and Vrancea. The County of Constanța itself includes three municipal towns of second rank - Constanța, Medgidia and Mangalia, nine Towns of third rank - Benjasa, Eforie, Murfatlar, Nadturi, Negros voda, Oveti, Tekirgol, Herson and Cherna Voda, 58 more communes and 189 villages.

Demographic characteristics of the region

Table: Demographic Statistics data of County of Constanța, as per 2015

	Population	Men	Women	in towns	in villages	density	Average Age	Natural Growth	Mechanical Growth
2015	683329	333450	349879	466297	217032	102,8	40,4	-499	-427

Source: Own calculations and data of the NSI, Romania

County of Constanța ranks sixth in number of population in the country and first in the cross-border region, according to data for the Year 2015. Over the past three years, there was a trend of population decline. Over 60% of the County's population lives in the towns. However, there is a trend of towns depopulation at the expense of the villages where the number of population increases. In percent ratio of rural to urban population, the County of Constanta ranks one of the last places in comparison with the other Counties of the cross-border region. Over the past three years, the Population Density indicator is almost constant, observing a minimum decrease in the number of people living per square meter. Natural growth of population does not tend, and despite the negative result, the County ranks first in the cross-border region. The result of migration in the region is not favourable. Over the past three years, it has been seen that the number of settled population is less than the number of people displaced. Every year, the negative difference increases. Despite the unfavorable result of the indicator, the County of Constanța ranks fifth in the cross-border region in terms of Mechanical growth.

Statistics on Education and Higher Education Institutions

In the Academic year 2014/2015, the number of students in the County was 24111, which is by about 10% more than the previous academic year, thus interrupting the trend of decline in the number of students. The number of students for the year concerned was 94003. It is observed that a large percentage of students do not continue their higher education in the County, despite the presence of a large number of universities offering different training profiles. On the territory of the County of Constanța there are five higher education institutions and one faculty, located in the Town of Constanța:

- Ovidius University;
- Higher Marine College;
- Military and Maritime Academy;
- Andrey Saguna University;
- Faculty of Legal Sciences and Economics at the "Spiru Haret" University;
- "Tomis" University.

County of Constanța ranks first in the number of higher education institutions in the cross-border region.

Brief economic presentation

Labor Force and Unemployment

Table: Labor Force Statistical data in the County of Constanța, as per 2015

	Working age population	Men in work. age	Women in work. age	Employment rate (ER)	ER Men	ER Women	Unemployment rate (UR)	UR Men	UR Women
2015	443200	230500	212700	65,3%	73,1%	56,7%	3,6%	2,7%	4,9%

Source: Own calculations and data of the NSI, Romania

Working-age population decreases, but in the region, respectively, there is also an increase at the level of the Employment rate. In 2015, it grew by 0.3% compared to 2014 and by 7.5% compared to 2011. Decreasing trend is observed respectively in the Unemployment rate. Compared to the other areas in the cross-border region, the County of Constanța ranks second in Working-age population, respectively in the first place by Employment level and last by Unemployment level.

Current employment trends by sectors

According to the 'Employment' Indicator, the Sector "Forestry, Agriculture and Aquaculture" ranks first by 53 600 people, which makes 18.5% of the total number of employed persons in all the economic sectors. The Industrial Sector ranks second by 51,800 people or 17.9% of the total number of employed persons. The manufacturing industry stands out in the Industry Sector, by employing 40,400 people or a total of 13.97% of the total number of employed persons. Another Sector providing high employment is the Sector of "Wholesale and retail trade, repair and maintenance of motor vehicles and motorcycles". There are 48,800 persons employed in this Sector or 16.87% of the total number of people in employment.

Technological parks, business incubators, industrial zones

In the territory of the County of Constanța there are industrial areas in all major towns, one technology park in Mangalia and two business incubators operate- Patronatul IMM and Mangalia Business Incubator.

Scientific research and development activities

Thirteen research centers located in the Towns of Constanta, Eforie, Murfaltar, Tekirgol and Valu lui Traian operate in the County of Constanța. Research centers carry out analyzes, studies and researches in various fields, including: nature and agriculture, marine geology and geoecology, navigation and maritime management, military equipment and technologies, radioactivity, environmental monitoring and quality, pharmacy, medicine, molecular and cell biology, and rail transport. Much of the research centers are established at the Universities of the Town of Constanța and the national research institutes.

County of Călărași

General data about the region-location and geographic presentation

County of Călărași is located in south-eastern part of Romania, as the Danube river divides it from the County of Constanța to the East and the Bulgarian Districts of Silistra and Ruse to the south. It borders the County of Ilfov to the northwest and to the southwest - the County of Giurgiu. The County of Ialomița is located to the north of the County.

County of Călărași has an area of 5 088 km², which ranks it twenty-eighth in Romania and sixth in the cross-border region. The main natural resource is the agricultural land, which covers over 84% of the County's territory.



Key features

Network of settlements, according to NUTS II and NUTS III

According to the NUTS II Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS II), the County of Călărași is located in the South Muntenia Region, which includes the Counties of Argeș, Calarasi, Dumbovita, Giurgiu, Iolomita, Prahova and Teleorman. The County of Călărași covers two Municipal Towns from the top rank - Calarasi and Oltenitza, three towns of third rank - Budești, Fundulea and Lehliu Gară, fifty communes and one hundred and sixty villages.

Demographic characteristics of the region

Table: Demographic Statistics data of County of Călărași, as per 2015

	Population	Men	Women	in towns	in villages	density	Average Age	Natural Growth	Mechanical Growth
2015	298763	146968	151795	107771	190992	61,8	41,8	-1639	-644

Source: Own calculations and data of the NSI, Romania

The population of the County of Călărași equals 1.5% of the total population in Romania, ranking 34th in the country by population. In the cross-border region, the County ranks fifth. Over the years, since the last official census up to and including 2015, for both the country and the region, there has been a downward trend in the number of population. This result is also due to the unfavourable data in natural and mechanical growth. In the cross-border region, according to the Natural growth indicator, County of Călărași ranks fifth, while the difference between settled and displaced persons is eighth. Population is aging, as the average age rises by nearly half a year. Although there is also a downward trend in the number of population living in the villages, in 2015, it is almost by 30% more than the urban population. This ranks it third in the cross-border region.

Statistics on Education and Higher Education Institutions

A branch of the Faculty of Management, Economic Engineering in Agriculture and Rural Development at the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Bucharest, and a branch of the educational institution F.E. Iasi are positioned in the County of Călărași. The Educational Institution FE Iasi offers training for nurses, assistants and ergotherapists. Despite the predominantly rural population, training for medical professionals is more desirable than for agrarian ones. As in 2014/2015 academic year, the number of students in the F.E.'s subsidiary was 531, while in the branch of the University it was 349. In both educational institutions, there is a downward trend in the number of students.

Brief economic presentation

Labor Force and Unemployment

Table: Labor Force Statistical data in the County of Călărași, as per 2015

	Working age population	Men in work. age	Women in work. age	Employment rate (ER)	ER Men	ER Women	Unemployment rate (UR)	UR Men	UR Women
2015	179400	95000	84400	51,2%	49,1%	53,6%	7,3%	8,2%	6,3%

Source: Own calculations and data of the NSI, Romania

Looking at working-age population, there is a downward trend, and in 2015 compared to 2011 the result was by 16,500 people less. There are no particular changes in the relative share of people in employment, ranging from 50.6 to 52.7%. By level of employment, the County of Călărași ranks at

one of the last places in the cross-border region. While by Unemployment rate, it ranks fourth by the lowest percentage.

Current employment trends by sectors

Looking at sectoral employment, it is noted that the highest number of people in employment is in the Sector of Forestry, Agriculture and Aquaculture by 44.6% of the total number of people in employment. Followed by the Industrial sector, it ranks by 17.5%, 15% of which are employed in the Manufacturing industry. Another sector that stands out with relatively high employment is the Sector of Wholesale and Retail, Repair and Maintenance of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, which employs nearly 10%. Despite the high number of people in employment in the Sector of Forestry, Agriculture and Aquaculture, there is a downward trend in the number of people employed in the Sector of Forestry, while at the same time the number of people in employment in the industrial sector increases.

Technological parks, business incubators, industrial areas

There are no business incubators established in the County of Călărași. “Local Initiatives and Business Development Centre” was formed to support business, working jointly with the “University Business Incubator” Foundation and the “House of the Didactic Corps” in Giurgiu and the “Economic and Social Development” Association, Arges. The overall purpose of the four partners is to include the unemployed people of the three Counties in an entrepreneurial programme.

There are no technology parks in the Counties. There are few industrial zone, as the largest ones are located in the Municipal Center of Călărași.

Scientific research and development activities

In the County of Călărași, scientific research and development activities are carried out in the two national institutes and in one private organization. Researches on cereals, forage and industrial crops are conducted at the National Institute for Agricultural Research and Development Fundulea. Researches in the field of bio-resources, biotechnology, agrochemical products and chemical and petrochemical technologies are conducted at the branch of the National Institute of Chemical and Petrochemical Research. Researches in agriculture and, in particular, for maize and sunflower crops are conducted at the ProCeraGenetics SRL Research Organization.

County of Giurgiu

General data about the region-location and geographic presentation

County of Giurgiu is located in the south of Romania. The county borders with the County of Călărași to the east, with the City of Bucharest to the northeast, with the County of Arges to the northwest, with the County of Dumbovitsa to the north, with the County of Teleorman to the west, as the Danube River divides it to the south from the Bulgarian Districts Ruse and Silistra. With an area of 3 526 km² it ranks forty-first in terms of size in Romania and twelfth place in the cross-border region Bulgaria-Romania.

Important communications routes are located on the territory of the County- through the Danube River it connects with the Black Sea



and via the Danube Bridge with Bulgaria, the Balkan Peninsula and the Middle East. The Danube Bridge is one of the two bridges across the Danube that connect Romania and Bulgaria.

Key features

Network of settlements, according to NUTS II and NUTS III

According to the NUTS II Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS II) the County of Giurgiu is located in the South Muntenia Region, which consists of the Counties of Arges, Calarasi, Dambovita, Giurgiu, Ialomita, Prahova and Teleorman. The County of Giurgiu consists of one municipal city of second rank - Giurgiu, two towns of third rank - Bolintin-Vale and Mihailesti, fifty-one communes and a hundred and sixty-seven villages.

Demographic characteristics of the region

Table: Demographic Statistics data of County of Giurgiu, as per 2015

	Population	Men	Women	in towns	in villages	density	Average Age	Natural Growth	Mechanical Growth
2015	276664	136537	140127	80645	196019	81,40	42,10	-1816	480

Source: Own calculations and data of the NSI, Romania

In 2015, the population of the County of Giurgiu was 276664 people, ranking at thirty-sixth place in the country and sixth in the cross-border region. Both in the whole country and in the County of Giurgiu, the number of population has declined over the last three years. Logically, the population density has decreased. Giurgiu is predominantly a rural region and this is evident from the large number of population inhabiting the villages. As the percentage of rural and urban population, the County of Giurgiu ranks first in the cross-border region by over 40%. The negative Natural growth contributes to the aging of population. Comparing the average age of population in the cross-border region, the County of Giurgiu shares the third place with the County of Dolj, by low indicator value. There is no trend in the "Natural growth" Indicator. The data, in comparing the Years 2015 to 2014, show that despite the negative value, the indicator is more favourable, ranking it sixth in the cross-border region. Unlike the previous indicator, the migration process shows that in 2015, more people have settled in the County than displaced. Giurgiu is the only county of the cross-border region with a positive Mechanical Growth result.

Statistics on Education and Higher Education Institutions

There are a number of secondary educational institutions in the County of Giurgiu, one for post-secondary education and one for professional degree. There are no higher education institutions, the closest ones being in Bucharest. The specialties offered by the school for post-secondary education are in the field of general and pharmaceutical nurses and assistants. In the 2014/2015 school year, 577 persons studied at post-secondary schools, and the number of those seeking vocational education was 67. Statistical data per school years show that the interest in post-secondary schools is greater than the interest in graduating a professional degree education.

Brief economic presentation

Labour Force and Unemployment

Table: Labor Force Statistical data in the County of Giurgiu, as per 2015

	Working age population	Men in work. age	Women in work. age	Employment rate (ER)	ER Men	ER Women	Unemployment rate (UR)	UR Men	UR Women
2015	169600	90900	78700	48,3%	47,1%	49,8%	6,5%	6,6%	6,4%

Source: Own calculations and data of the NSI, Romania

County of Giurgiu ranks sixth in the number of working-age population of the cross-border region. In 2015, there was a slight decrease in the number of working-age population compared to 2011. Over the period, there were also years of upsurge when the number was reaching 177 300 people. In 2015, the Employment rate was just below 50%, unlike the previous year when the result was 50.7%. In general, there were no particular drops or rises in the Employment rate over the period. In 2015, by this indicator, the County ranks last in the cross-border region and second by the "unemployment rate" indicator.

Current employment trends by sectors

Like in all Districts and Counties, in the County of Giurgiu also the largest number of employees is in the Sector of Forestry, Agriculture and Aquaculture. Although there has been a decline in the number of people in employment in the sector over the last four years, more than 46.1% of people in employment work therein. Industry ranks second by 10.2%, 7.2% of which are employed in the manufacturing enterprises. The third sector in which a large number of the working-age population is working is the Construction Sector by 9.2%. In the Industry and Construction Sectors, employment is almost constant, with slight changes. In 2015, the number of workers in both sectors slightly increased compared to 2014.

Technological parks, business incubators, industrial areas

On the territory of the County of Giurgiu there are:

- two industrial parks of which "Bucharest Industrial Park" in the Town of Bolintin Dial and the Nord Technology and Industrial Park in the Town of Giurgiu;
- Port Complex located in Giurgiu;
- Business Incubator "GiuriuBuisinessHub", positioned in Town of Giurgiu.

Scientific research and development activities

There are four R&D organizations operating in the County.

- SANIMED International Impex - a private organization producing collagen and other new and innovative products in the field of advanced biotechnology;
- HYPERTECH - a private organization providing services in the District: biometric access control, special telecommunication, automotive electronics and automation;
- Holland Farming Agro Laboratories for soil, water and plant analysis;
- C&D SPECIAL ALIAJELE - a private organization operating in the field of the metallurgical industry.

County of Teleorman

General data about the region-location and geographic presentation

County of Teleorman is located in the south of Romania. The county borders with the County of Giurgiu to the east, with the County of Dâmbovița to the northeast, with County of Arges to the north, with the County of Ilt to the west, and to the south the Danube divides it from the Bulgarian districts Ruse, Veliko Tarnovo and Pleven. With an area of 5 789,8 km², it ranks nineteenth in terms of size in Romania and third in the cross-border region Bulgaria-Romania.



Key features

Network of settlements, according to NUTS II and NUTS III

According to Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS II), the County of Teleorman is located in the South Muntenia Region, which includes the Counties of Argeș, Călărași, Dâmbovița, Giurgiu, Ialomița, Prahova and Teleorman. County of Teleorman includes three municipal Towns of second rank - Alexandria, Turnu Măgurele and Rosiorii de Vede, two Towns of third rank - Videli and Zimnicea, ninety-two communes and two hundred and thirty-one villages.

Demographic characteristics of the region

Table: Demographic Statistics data of County of Teleorman, as per 2015

	Population	Men	Women	in towns	in villages	density	Average Age	Natural Growth	Mechanical Growth
2015	361615	177940	183675	116916	244699	63,5	46,3	-3859	-1415

Source: Own calculations and data of the NSI, Romania

The County of Teleorman ranks twenty-sixth by number of population in Romania and fourth in the cross-border region. The downward trend in the number of population in the country impacted the region. In 2015 compared to 2014, it has decreased by 1.5%. Unlike other regions where the number of population in the towns is declining but increasing in the villages, here, the population in the villages is declining more than in the towns. However, in terms of rural and urban population, the County of Teleorman ranks second after the County of Giurgiu. The Natural growth indicator in 2015 showed that the birth rate in the region was significantly lower than the mortality rate, by which it ranks last in the cross-border region. This impacted the average age of population in the County, which was 46.3 in 2015. By this indicator, the County of Teleorman ranks tenth in the cross-border region. The results and the difference between settled and displaced population are unfavourable. It occupies the penultimate position in the cross-border region measured by the Mechanical growth indicator. The conclusion that can be deduced is that the population is decreasing, aging, and emigrating from the County.

Statistics on Education and Higher Education Institutions

In the County of Teleorman, and more precisely in Alexandria, several faculties of higher education are positioned:

- Faculty of Pedagogy of Primary and Pre-school Education at the University of Pitesti;
- Faculty of Science and Engineering at the University of Valahia - Targovishte;

- Faculties of Engineering and Management in Public Food and Agrotourism and Control and Expertise of Food Products at the Biotherm University - Bucharest.

Students willing to acquire professional qualifications or post-secondary education can choose between the three post-secondary schools and the technical college. In the Town of Alexandria, a branch of the post-secondary educational institution F. E. and "Karol Davila" School, which offer training in the field of medicine, are positioned. In Town of Rosiori de Vede, a technical college, offering education with a professional degree and a branch of the post-secondary school F.E.G. with specialties in the field of medicine, are positioned. In the 2014/2015 school year, there was a growing interest in higher education compared to the previous year, but still the largest number of students is in the educational structures providing vocational education.

Brief economic presentation

Labor Force and Unemployment

Table: Labor Force Statistical data in the County of Teleorman, as per 2015

	Working age population	Men in work. age	Women in work. age	Employment rate (ER)	ER Men	ER Women	Unemployment rate (UR)	UR Men	UR Women
2015	205800	111500	94300	68,3%	64,8%	72,4%	11,6%	13,8%	9,3%

Source: Own calculations and data of the NSI, Romania

The number of working-age population decreased each year from 2011 to 2015. However, the Employment rate shows that the relative share of people in employment of the population of the same age is the highest compared to the rest of the regions. Unemployment rate follows an upward trend, increasing by 2.5% in 2015 compared to 2011. By high unemployment level, by the indicator value of 11.6%, the County ranks fifth in the region.

Current employment trends by sectors

As in all cross-border Counties on Romanian side, in the County of Teleorman also the largest number of employees is in the Sector of "Forestry, Agriculture and Aquaculture", followed by the Industry and especially "Production", and in terms of results followed by the Sector of Wholesale and retail, repair and maintenance of motor vehicles and motorcycles. In 2015, compared to 2014, it is observed that the number of people in employment in the Sector of Forestry, Agriculture and Aquaculture decreases by almost 14% and the other two reference Sectors show an increase. Accordingly, in the Sector of Industry, the increase is close to 1.3% and in the Sector of Wholesale and Retail, Repair and Maintenance of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles it is less than 1%.

Technological parks, business incubators, industrial areas

There are no technological and industrial parks, no business incubators established on the territory of the County. In the large towns, there are distinct industrial areas on the territory of which large enterprises and factories are located. The Town of Turnu Măgurele is also one of the Danubian ports in the country.

Scientific research and development activities

Research and development activities in the County are not highly developed. The only organization that runs such business activity is the "T2" having its registered offices in the Town of Rosiori de Vede. It offers consultations in the field of e-business, e-government and e-learning.

County of Olt

General data about the region-location and geographic presentation

County of Olt is located in the southern part of Romania, in the border region with Bulgaria. Its name comes from the Olt River, which crosses its entire territory and is of great importance for the District economy. The total area of Olt is 5498 km² or 2.3% of the territory of the country, ranking it on the 22nd place among all the Counties in Romania and 4th in the Bulgarian-Romanian cross-border region.

It is bordered by the County of Vâlcea, by Agres and Teleorman to the east, by Dolj to the west; as the 47km long stretch of the Danube River to the south divides it from the Bulgarian District of Vratsa and Pleven.



Key features

Network of settlements, according to NUTS II and NUTS III

County of Olt is part of the Southwest Olt region where the main administrative center is Slatina. There are 6 Towns in the County: Caracal, Balș, Corabia, Dragantesti-Olt, Piatra-Olt, Podkova. Corabia - a Town of great importance with the status of a Municipality, due to the presence of a port on the Danube river. The number of Mayoralties is one hundred and four, and there are 377 villages.

Demographic characteristics

Table: Demographic Statistics data of County of Olt, as per 2015

	Population	Men	Women	in towns	in villages	density	Average Age	Natural Growth	Mechanical Growth
2015	418 463	206 256	212 207	163 423	255 040	76.12	43.7	-3143	-1614

Source: Own calculations and data of the NSI, Romania

As per 2015, the population in the County was 418 463 people, 61% of which were living in the villages, 39% in the towns. The average density was 76.12 inhabitants/km², ranking it fifth in the entire cross-border region. In recent years, there was a steady was 43.7, in 2015, this figure is slightly below the average for the cross-border region (44.8). Life expectancy is lower than the average for Europe, in addition, the negative Natural growth and migration processes exacerbate the demographic crisis in the County. The tendency is common to the entire cross-border region, but in separate Counties, its development intensity is different.

Statistics on Education and Higher Education Institutions

There are no universities in the County of Olt. The closest one is the University of Craiova, so those wishing to graduate a higher education must change their domicile. The number of technical and vocational high schools is significant.

Brief economic presentation

Labor Force and Unemployment

Table: Labor Force Statistical data in the County of Olt, as per 2015

	Working age population	Men in work. age	Women in work. age	Employment rate (ER)	ER Men	ER Women	Unemployment rate (UR)	UR Men	UR Women
2015	254 600	119 000	135 600	60.7%	59.6%	62%	8.1%	9.4%	6.7%

Source: Own calculations and data of the NSI, Romania

The number of working-age population (15-64) in Olt is 254,600, with a higher proportion of Men than Women. Statistical data show that only 58% of working age women are economically active, while the percentage among the opposite sex is significantly higher - 75%. Unemployment among men is higher than the average for the County. The County of Olt ranks eighth by level of employment in the cross-border region.

Current employment trends by sectors

For the Year 2015, most people were employed in the Sector of Forestry, Agriculture and Aquaculture - 64,800 people. The Industry is second, as the number of people working in the Sector is 32 100, 91% of which are employed in the manufacturing. By number of jobs in the region the next sector is "Wholesale and retail trade, repair, maintenance of motor vehicles and motorcycles" as the number of people in employment therein is 15,300 (about 10%).

Technological parks, business incubators, industrial areas

The only industrial park in the County is located in the Administrative Centre of Slatina, where businesses operate in different sectors: the processing industry, the financial-banking sector, the services, the food and beverage industry, etc. The Park was established in 2013 with the purpose to create conditions for attracting foreign investors and appropriate environment to create business incubators.

There are three major industrial areas on the territory of the Municipality of Slatina:

- Industrial area of the northeast railway station - companies from the aluminum industry are concentrated therein;
- Southern industrial area of Dragansheti-Olt - employment in the aluminum processing industry;
- Northwest Industrial area - various servicing units, warehouses, construction and transport companies.

Scientific research and development activities

In 2012, a partnership agreement was signed between Southwest Regional Development Agency Oltenia, the Craiova University - Faculty of Mechanics, Ford Company Romania and the Municipality of Craiova for the creation of a Research and Development Centre Southwest Oltenia Automotive Centre. The grouping includes more than 30 organizations, and although its headquarters are located in Craiova, it operates in the entire Southwest Oltenia Region - Olt, Dolj, Mehedinti, Valcea and Gorj. The county itself is not distinguished by large research and development centres, but in the 2014-2020 Olt Strategic Development Plan, one of the main goals is to increase R & D investment by 3%.

County of Dolj

General data about the region-location and geographic presentation

County of Dolj is the largest in terms of area in the Cross-border Region, occupying an area of 7 414 km². To the east, it borders the County of Olt, to the north - Gorj and Valcea, to the west - Mehedinti, and to the south it is open at 150km along the Danube River, which divides it from the Bulgarian Districts of Vidin, Montana and Vratsa. It ranks the seventh largest in the country, occupying 3.1% of its territory.



Key features

Network of settlements, according to NUTS II and NUTS III

The administrative centre of the County is the Town of Craiova, which is of great economic and social importance in the entire Southwestern Oltania region and has the status of a Municipality. Another two municipal towns are Calafat and Băilești. In addition, there are four large towns, 104 communes and 378 villages in Dolj.

Demographic characteristics

Table: Demographic Statistics data of County of Dolj, in 2015

	Population	Men	Women	in towns	in villages	density	Average Age	Natural Growth	Mechanical Growth
2015	646 620	316 386	330 234	335 558	311 062	87.22	42.5	-3827	-441

Source: Own calculations and data of the NSI, Romania

County of Dolj has the most pronounced decline in the number of the population, compared to all other Counties in Romania - nearly 100,000 for the past 25 years. The decrease in the number of population is due to the negative values of both the natural and mechanical growth. The only settlements with registered population growth in recent years were in the Municipality of Craiova and the rural regions, where the Roma minority prevails. The ethnic structure as a whole is homogeneous, but the share of Roma population is increasing at a steady pace. The number of young people decreases annually due to the low birth rates and increased external and internal migration, however, the average age in the County is lower than in the cross-border region. Nearly 48% of the population lives in rural areas, but there is a tendency for permanent depopulation of smaller villages in the County.

Statistics on Education and Higher Education Institutions

The population with higher education is concentrated in urban areas, while the level of education in rural areas remains very low.

There are three Universities in the County:

- Craiova University - with faculties of Mathematics, Philology, Electrical Engineering, Agricultural, Forestry, Chemistry and Economics;
- University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova;
- Spiru Hare University - the only private one

More than 20,000 students are trained in Dolj, as their level has remained fairly stable since 2014. About 5,000 of them graduate each year, mostly in the fields of pedagogical, technical and economic

sciences. Most of them can not find a subsequent realization in Dolj, so they change their domicile, most often to Bucharest or abroad.

Brief economic presentation

Labor Force and Unemployment

Table: Labor Force Statistical data in the County of Dolj, as per 2015

	Working age population	Men in work. age	Women in work. age	Employment rate (ER)	ER Men	ER Women	Unemployment rate (UR)	UR Men	UR Women
2015	406 700	213 700	193 000	61.2%	63.2%	59%	9.5%	10.2%	8.7%

Source: Own calculations and data of the NSI, Romania

In 2015, the number of working-age population was 406 700, with a decline of more than 10% within the period from 2011 to 2015. This potential is apparent, as there are only 275,000 people economically active in the County due to the high percentage of overseas workers, seasonal and temporary workers, and early-retired ones. The economic activity rate is 67%. The Employment rate is significantly higher for Men, as well as the Unemployment rate - 10.2%.

Current employment trends by sectors

Traditionally, for the County, the most people in employment are in the Agricultural sector - 88,200 as the number of women exceeds the number of men by nearly 6%. Interestingly, there was a strong decline in the number of people in employment in the sector over the period from 2011 to 2015, as in 2011, nearly 42% of all people employed earned their living with agriculture, compared to 2015 when their number declined to 36%. The statistics show that in only one year (2014-2015) the number of people in employment in the sector declined to 14,000. The Industry is on the second place in terms of number of the labor force for the Year 2015 - 40,400 people, over 80% of which work in Production, with no significant changes in these values for the period subject to the Study. The Sector of Motor Vehicle and Motorcycle Sales and Repairs provides 35 700 job positions, ranking it third in number of people in employment in Dolj.

Technological parks, industrial zones, business incubators

There are two large industrial parks in the administrative center of Craiova:

- "Craiova 1" - has been operating since 2004; bringing together organizations from different sectors - automotive, IT, textile, food, R & D, etc.; the shareholders are five municipalities from the Southwest Oltenia Region; its aim is to increase competitiveness in the region.
- High-Tech Park Craiova - at the initiative of the County Council of Dolj, as the construction of the second park in Craiova, which has not worked actively until now, begins in 2014.

Scientific research and development activities

Craiova, over time, besides an administrative, has become a centre of research and scientific activities throughout the Southwest Oltenia. There are two major research centres at the University of Craiova and the University of Medicine and Pharmacy. Four more large organizations are developing R&D in the towns, in the field of medicine, political science, agriculture and electrical engineering. There are more than 20 laboratories, research centres and institutes in Craiova. In addition, several associations of organizations operating in different spheres have built R&D centres, whose purpose is to help the development of the entire South-western region of Oltenia:

- "Southwest Oltenia Automotive Centre" - a group of more than 30 organizations in the field of car-building;

- “Regional Competitiveness Centre Oltenia” - support for small and medium business, start-ups, business incubators;
- “Tiara-C” Group - a research team at the University of Craiova, specialized in composite, materials and engineering research.

The Fundamental and Applied Research Centre, which works in collaboration with the University of Craiova in the field of biochemistry, is located in Podari. The Centre for the Research and Development of Agricultural Growth Plants on the Sand, which is under the aegis of the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences in Bucharest, is located in the Town of Dabuleni.

County of Mehedinți

General data about the region-location and geographic presentation

County of Mehedinți is located in the southwestern part of Romania, with a natural border of the 192 km shoreline along the Danube river. It occupies an area of 4 933km² or 2.1% of the country's territory and borders with the Counties of Caras-Severin to the west, Gorj to the north, Dolj to the southeast, and Bulgaria (District of Vidin) and Serbia to the south. The County ranks sixth in terms of area in the cross-border region and is one of the smallest in Romania.



Key features

Network of settlements, according to NUTS II and NUTS III

In terms of administrative distribution, there are two municipal towns - Orsova and Drobeta-Turnu Severin in the County of Mehedinți, which is also the administrative center of the County. Altogether there are three major cities - Baia de Aram, Strehaia and Vangju, 61 communes and 344 villages.

Demographic characteristics

Table: Demographic Statistics data of County of Mehedinți, as per 2015

	Population	Men	Women	in towns	in villages	density	Average Age	Natural Growth	Mechanical Growth
2015	256 011	126 205	129 806	118 461	137 550	51.90	43.9	-1883	-871

Source: Own calculations and data of the NSI, Romania

As of December 31, 2015, the number of population in the County was 256,011, as the number of rural population was predominating, compared to the urban - 54% to 46%. The average density was 51.90 inhabitants/km², ranking it tenth in the entire cross-border region. Natural and Mechanical growth are negative due to the negative demographic trends. Since the last census in 2011 to 2015, it has been reported that the number of population decreased by 32,000 people. The average age is lower than that for the cross-border region, but increases every year.

Statistics on Education and Higher Education Institutions

In the administrative centre of Mehedinți, there are two faculties of the University of Craiova:

- Drobeta-Turnu Severin;
- Faculty of Economics and Administration

Each year about 1,700 students are studying, as nearly 500 are graduating. More than 7% of those with a secondary education diploma do not continue further their education. Over the period 2011-2015, their percentage varied, but remained high, in 2011 they were 2%, in 2012 they reached 11%, with only a small drop to 7.3% in 2015.

The number of primary schools is higher in the villages than in the towns, as opposed to the number of high schools and faculties that is significantly larger in the towns. In the County, there is a sensitive lack of qualified teachers, especially in rural areas, which affects the quality of education.

Brief economic presentation

Labor Force and Unemployment

Table: Labor Force Statistical data in the County of Mehedinți, as per 2015

	Working-age population	Working-age Men	Working-age Women	Employment rate (ER)	ER Men	ER Women	Unemployment rate	UR Men	UR Women
2015	157 500	84 100	73 400	63%	60.8%	65.7%	11%	12.8%	9%

Source: Own calculations and data of the NSI, Romania

The number of working-age population is 157,500 people, of which 99,300 are economically active, as the percentage of Women is higher than that of Men (72.1% to 69.7%). The Employment rate for women is by 5.7% higher than for men. County of Mehedinți ranks first by Unemployment rate of the Romanian Counties in the Cross-border region. Over the period July-October 2015 more than 13,000 people in the County were unemployed. These are the highest unemployment rates reported over the period 2011-2015.

Current employment trends by sectors

One of the main problems in the County is the lack of job positions in rural areas. At local level, the municipalities fail to create employment conditions and the region is not attractive enough for investors because of the demographic and infrastructure problems. In addition, seven large enterprises in Drobeta Turnu-Severin made collective redundancies (a total of 1,935 people) only for the Year 2015. Therefore, in 2015, the number of unemployed people in Mehedinți was record-breaking for the country, in addition many of them were long-term unemployed people, who can hardly be reintegrated on the labor market.

Typically, in the Counties of Southwest Oltenia, people are mostly employed in the agricultural sector - 40% of the active population, in the Industry - 17%, and in the sector of motor vehicles and motorcycles - 11.5%.

Technological parks, business incubators, industrial areas

Mehedinți is one of the eight Counties in Romania that do not have industrial parks in their territory. The majority of them are concentrated in the central part of the country, while in the border counties, smaller industrial zones have been established mainly in the administrative centres of the Counties. Nevertheless, neither in Drobeta Turnu-Severin, nor in the bigger centres of the counties, well-developed industrial areas stand out.

Scientific research and development activities

There are no major centres of scientific research and development activities. These are mainly carried out in the Laboratory of Microwave Technology and Electromagnetic Energy Conversion at the University of Craiova.

The lab is part of “Tiara-C”, a union of researchers from the Universities of Bucharest, Craiova, Cluj-Napoca, Lassi and Timisoara. Its headquarters are located in Craiova, County of Dolj, but it operates in Drobeta Turnu-Severin.

III. ACTIVITY 1: Identification of the economic sectors in the cross-border region with a capacity to provide employment

1. PLACED OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

This analysis aims at providing information on the development of economic sectors within the Bulgarian Districts and the Romanian Counties, forming part of the cross-border region Bulgaria - Romania.

The focusing on the developed sectors aims at identifying employment opportunities in the region, as well as raising people's awareness of the labor market prospects.

The expected outcome of the analysis is to rank sectors in the region that have the capacity to provide employment.

2. IMPLEMENTATION METHODOLOGY

The common approach to the analysis of individual components of the analysis includes:

- providing status data (indicators and characteristics);
- analysing and assessing the data provided; outlining trends and dependencies;
- drawing conclusions.

The study was conducted using two main approaches: comparing selected indicators and studying data from existing sources of information - mainly strategic documents, with available information on the developed sectors that have the potential to provide employment.

The subject matter of the analysis covers non-financial enterprises and local units respectively from the Bulgarian and Romanian sides.

The applied methodology includes selected indicators based on which a comparison of sectors was made, as those that cover them to the highest degree are derived.

Indicators

For the sectoral analysis of the Bulgarian enterprises, the indicators used are as follows:

- Number of enterprises
- Production manufactured
- Net sales revenue
- Persons in employment
- TFA for the current year

For the sectoral analysis of the Romanian local units, the indicators used are as follows:

- Number of local units
- Turnover
- Number of staff
- Net investments in TFA

The indicators thus selected provide information on the sectors development, their significance; they are directly relevant to the economic situation and the capacity to provide employment.

The Comparative analysis is based on the best sectors performance by individual indicators (maximum value).

Definitions of indicators

The scope and content of analysis are fully based on the definitions provided in the first part of the Report, which are determined by the methodologies of data analysis of the Bulgarian and Romanian Statistical Institute, respectively.

Main sources of information used in the analysis process of Activity 1 are:

- **Statistical sources**
 - NSI Bulgaria, NSI Romania,
 - Eurostat.
- **Documentary sources**

All documents used in the analysis process are quoted in the Appendix to this Report. Strategic documents for the region and separate districts/counties from the Bulgarian and Romanian sides, Analysis of the Bulgarian Enterprises Situation and Development by Sectors and by Regions (2013), Official Bulletins with Information from the National Statistical Institutes refer to this Activity.

In carrying out the results analysis and the assessment, the team's expert opinions and observations were applied, the data were compared vs. the data available from official sources of information in order to confirm their credibility.

Findings and conclusions provided are based solely on the information that the team had at the time of analysis. The information is derived from official sources, and further calculations (summing up) are added to improve its presentation.

Conclusions and analysis results are of informative nature, they are intended exclusively for the purposes of this analysis and do not have the status of official sectoral forecasts.

Restrictions

Restrictions within the analysis carried out were: the difference in indicators provided by the statistical institutes of Bulgaria and Romania, the impossibility to access information at lower disaggregation levels in order to outline specific sections and groups of sectors.

Data for the Year 2015 were used for the analysis, being the period in which all the information on all selected indicators subject to analysis was available.

3. RESULT

3.1. Analysis data for the Bulgarian Districts of the Cross-border region: Vidin, Vratsa, Montana, Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo, Ruse, Silistra, Dobrich

3.1.1. Indicator 1: Number of enterprises

Table: Key Economic Indicators and Non-financial Enterprises by Districts, Municipalities and Economic Activities for the Year 2015: **Number of enterprises**

NACE Rev. 2 (Sector)	Region Sector of economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)	Vidin	Vratsa	Montana	Pleven	Veliko Tarnovo	Ruse	Silistra	Dobrich
	TOTAL (for all activities, excluding K, O, T и U)	3059	5845	4542	9674	10383	11313	3941	9456
A	AGRICULTURE, HUNTING AND FORESTY	267	555	413	826	774	719	519	1432
B	MINING AND QUARRYING	..	14	12	13	6	9	..	..
C	MANUFACTURING	225	461	498	845	904	1214	359	693
D	ELECTRICITY, GAS, STEAM AND AIR CONDITIONING SUPPLY	26	28	21	32	28	36	..	107
E	WATER SUPPLY; SEWERAGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES	..	16	6	15	31	30	7	..
F	CONSTRUCTION	86	235	164	444	444	446	168	380
G	WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES	1302	2459	1932	3879	3934	4251	1577	3273
H	TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE	191	283	214	537	493	751	214	531
I	ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICE ACTIVITIES	260	470	349	662	948	641	239	652
J	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	38	81	51	153	210	275	37	115
L	REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES	112	194	133	377	610	496	107	578
M	PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES	157	338	222	549	734	1031	225	594
N	ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES	69	116	83	187	235	271	64	155
P	EDUCATION	27	34	33	97	59	88	26	46
Q	HUMAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES	151	297	228	475	436	405	194	254
R	ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION	23	47	36	76	91	106	..	124
S	OTHER SERVICE ACTIVITIES	117	217	147	507	446	544	174	508

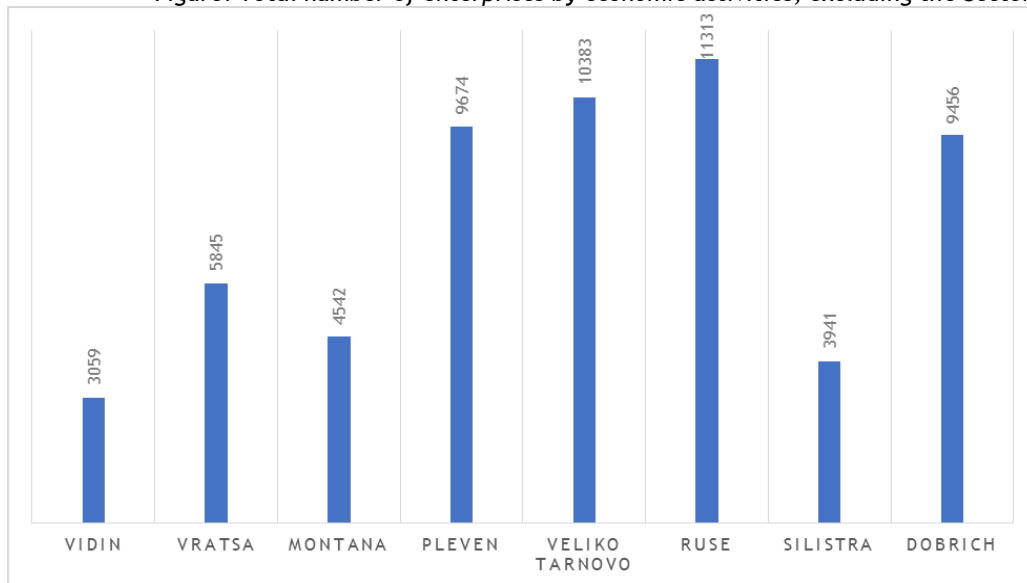
Source: NSI, Bulgaria

Descriptive Legend

... - presence of confidential data

A total of 58213 enterprises fall within the scope of the Bulgarian Districts, distributed by all economic activities except for the sectors K, O, T and U. The largest number of enterprises in the Districts is reported in Ruse, Veliko Tarnovo, Pleven and Dobrich.

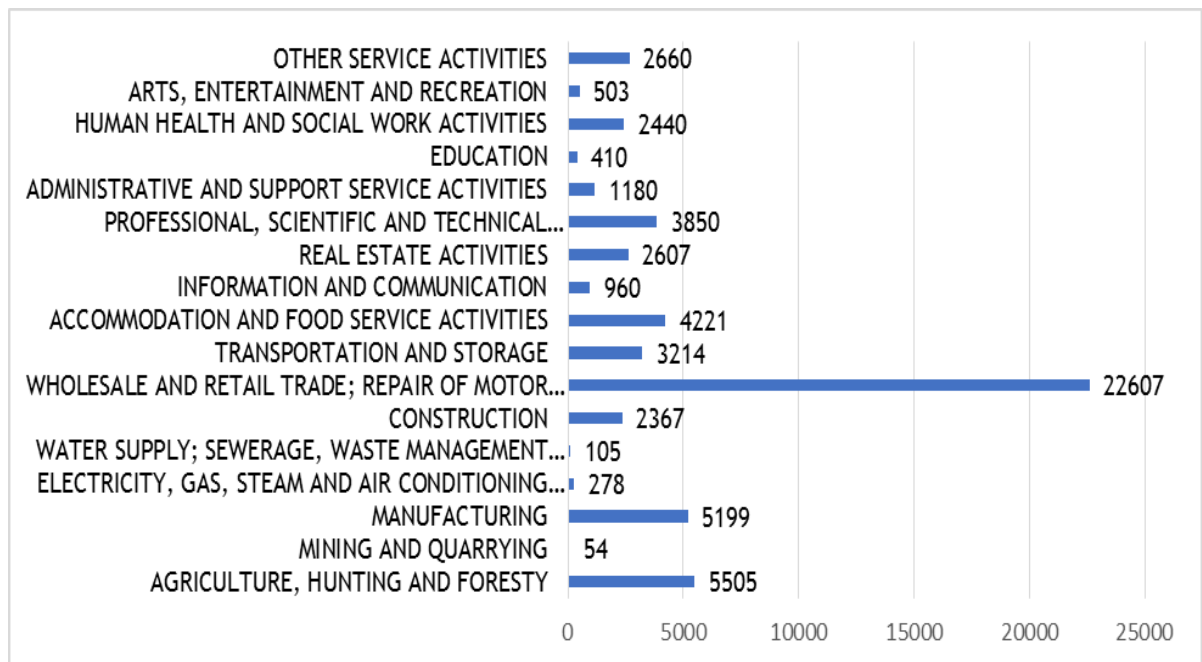
Figure: Total number of enterprises by economic activities, excluding the Sectors of K, O, T, U)



Source: NSI, Bulgaria

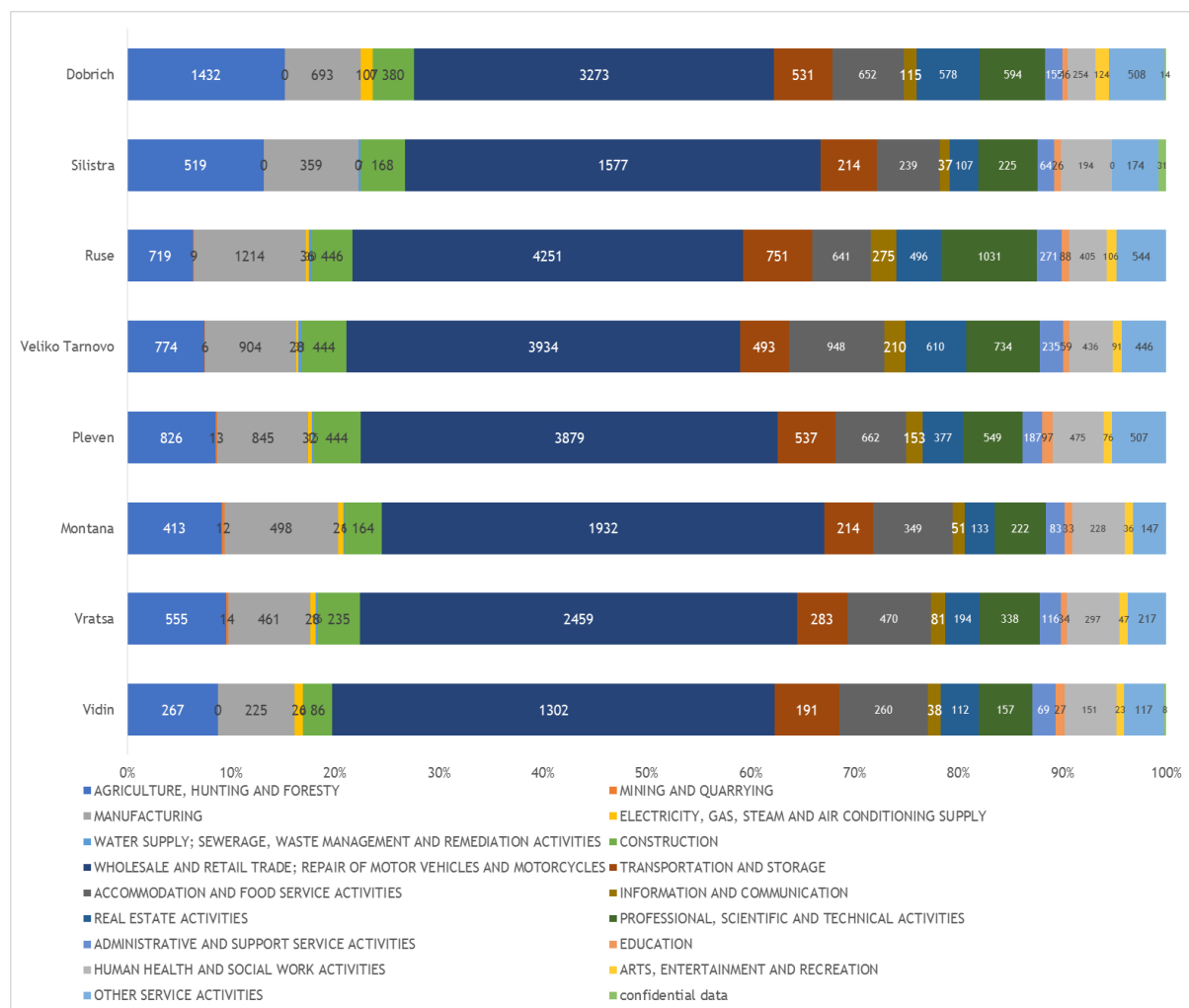
Distribution of the number of enterprises by sectors , as well as their share distribution by Districts is shown in the following graphs.

Figure: Total number of enterprises by economic activity



Source: NSI, Bulgaria

Figure: Share of enterprises by sectors, compared to the total number of enterprises of districts analysed



Source: NSI, Bulgaria

Confidential data are available in the information submitted by the NSI for the Districts of Vidin, Silistra and Dobrich, in respect of the Sectors of: (B) Mining and quarrying industry; (D) Production and distribution of electricity and heat for gaseous fuels; (E) Water supply; sewerage services, waste management and recovery; (R) Culture, sports and entertainment. These are expressed as follows: For the District of Vidin - 0.3% for Sectors B, E; for the District of Silistra - 0.8% for Sectors B, E, R; for the District of Dobrich - 0.1% for sectors B, E. This is a prerequisite for some distortion of data for these sectors.

In individual Districts, there are several leading sectors where the largest number of enterprises is outlined, as follows:

- Trade; car and motorcycle repair - between 35% and 46% of all enterprises in a District
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - between 6% and 15% of all enterprises in a District
- Processing industry - includes between 7% and 11% of all enterprises in a District
- Hotels- and Restaurant Management - between 6% and 8.5% of all enterprises in a District
- Professional activities and scientific research - between 5% and 9% of all enterprises in a District
- Transport, warehousing and mail - between 5% and 7% of all enterprises in a District.

3.1.2. Indicator 2: Production manufactured

Table: Key Economic Indicators and Non-financial Enterprises by Districts, Municipalities and Economic Activities for the Year 2015: Production manufactured ('000 BGN)

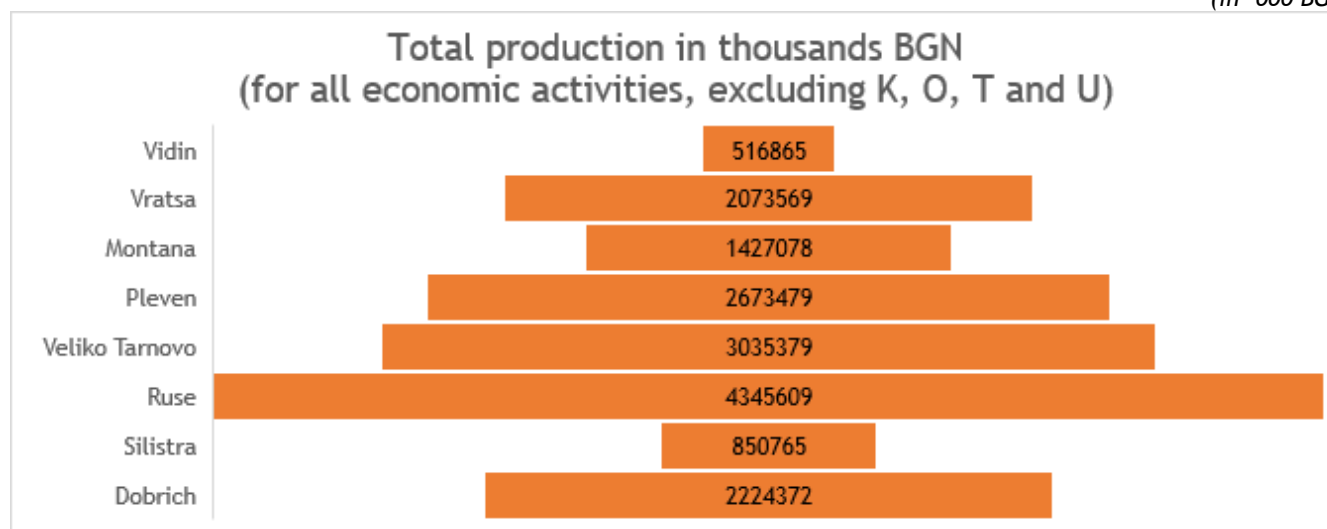
NACE Rev. 2 (Sector)	Region Sector of economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)	Vidin	Vratsa	Montana	Pleven	Veliko Tarnovo	Ruse	Silistra	Dobrich
	TOTAL (for all activities, excluding K, O, T и U)	516865	2073569	1427078	2673479	3035379	4345609	850765	2224372
A	AGRICULTURE, HUNTING AND FORESTRY	85923	247544	187924	426680	457484	364686	266041	676778
B	MINING AND QUARRYING	..	..	15250	..	9155	..	..	..
C	MANUFACTURING	144089	398295	839134	1182453	1446652	2039607	243119	546921
D	ELECTRICITY, GAS, STEAM AND AIR CONDITIONING SUPPLY	43622	..	..	89827	39620	..	..	189089
E	WATER SUPPLY; SEWERAGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES	..	25357	..	..	22151	30806	12661	..
F	CONSTRUCTION	33172	111331	95265	232229	268203	236544	81176	163585
G	WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES	44625	95245	113447	235760	331231	599887	127171	233594
H	TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE	90914	139954	60514	157464	162691	504767	43850	89491
I	ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICE ACTIVITIES	11041	18277	14875	27125	44936	36946	9065	134642
J	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	4214	7916	7177	16415	27529	49732	4268	22632
L	REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES	6246	8732	5992	40001	33634	31209	8395	15750
M	PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES	11062	37029	10350	28116	30887	64993	8223	27802
N	ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES	5341	18905	7036	24419	57579	48051	4260	25435
P	EDUCATION	554	1036	705	2092	3856	3289	653	..
Q	HUMAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES	17831	54239	36333	118471	70920	99492	24585	40390
R	ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION	397	4123	4616	19951	21277	8998	..	11591
S	OTHER SERVICE ACTIVITIES	2749	2225	1907	6582	7574	10603	1771	8092

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

Descriptive Legend

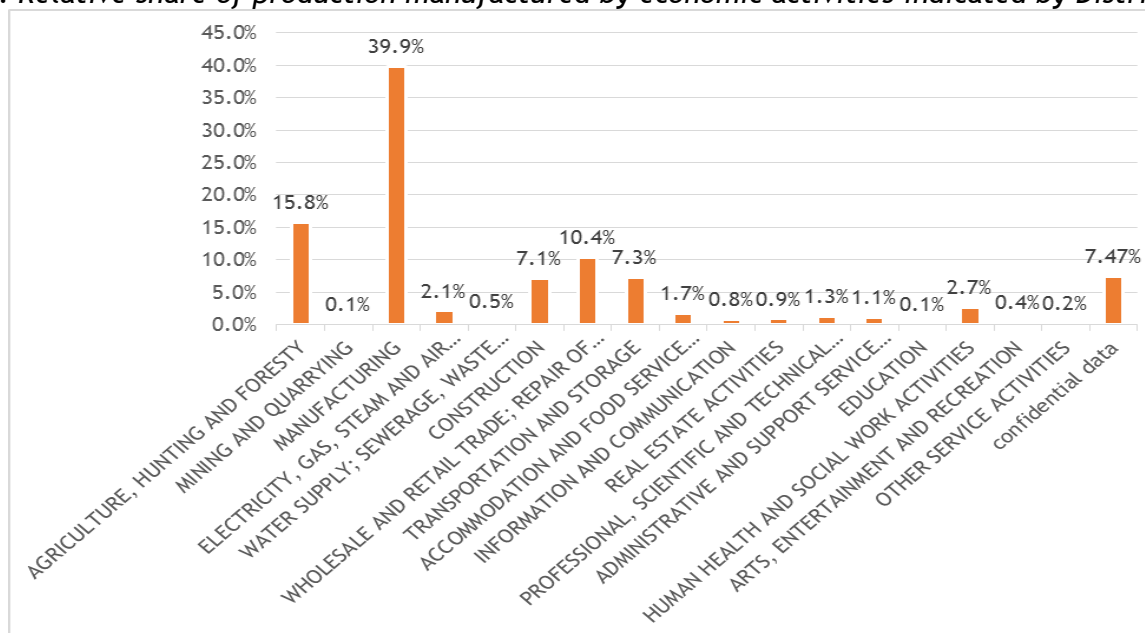
... presence of confidential data

Figure: Total production manufactured by Districts, for all the economic activities except for the Sectors of K, O, T and U (in '000 BGN)



Source: NSI, Bulgaria

Figure: Relative share of production manufactured by economic activities indicated by Districts



Source: NSI, Bulgaria

Produced output by the Manufacturing Industry for the eight Districts amounted to BGN 6.84 billion, thus ranking the sector first. Followed by the economic activities: Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - with produced output of value of BGN 2.71 billion; Trade; repair of automobiles and motorcycles - with produced output of value of BGN 1.78 billion; Transport, warehousing and postal services - with produced output of value of BGN 1.24 billion; Construction - with produced output of value of BGN 1.22 billion.

Due to the high percentage of confidential data for the sectors of: Mining and quarrying industry, Production and distribution of electricity and heat fuels for gaseous fuels, Water Supply; sewerage, waste management and recovery, there is no possibility to make an accurate estimate of what their real share would be, compared to the total produced output.

In the case that the production manufactured refers to the number of enterprises by economic activity, the Sectors of Processing industry, Production and distribution of electricity and heat fuels for gaseous fuels, followed by Water Supply; sewerage, waste management and recovery, have the largest share of production manufactured per unit of enterprise.

3.1.3. Indicator 3: Net sales revenue

Table: Key Economic Indicators and Non-financial Enterprises by Districts, Municipalities and Economic Activities for the Year 2015: Net sales revenue ('000 BGN)

NACE Rev. 2 (Sector)	Region	Vidin	Vratsa	Montana	Pleven	Veliko Tarnovo	Ruse	Silistra	Dobrich
	Sector of economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)								
	TOTAL (for all activities, excluding K, O, T и U)	705868	2463301	2017490	4127737	4490075	6908677	1713095	3436267
A	AGRICULTURE, HUNTING AND FORESTRY	81591	228637	190901	427376	468877	359763	278274	672190
B	MINING AND QUARRYING	..	..	12670	..	8778	..	12880	..
C	MANUFACTURING	147366	393961	843510	1377463	1507758	2217168	242766	563864
D	ELECTRICITY, GAS, STEAM AND AIR CONDITIONING SUPPLY	..	..	15778	..	58664	..	..	172646
E	WATER SUPPLY; SEWERAGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES	27690	23499	11099	23998	25042	32920	12962	26453
F	CONSTRUCTION	32910	103389	95886	237845	270866	239823	81730	175334
G	WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES	234626	533396	689773	1453942	1667746	2959433	971019	1407193
H	TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE	90601	142279	61762	161229	166115	503430	44733	87669
I	ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICE ACTIVITIES	13669	30796	19943	80463	65403	54560	15773	157517
J	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	3983	7868	7282	16271	27666	49791	4346	22257
L	REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES	4590	8403	5051	30378	34335	27229	7054	18745
M	PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES	10835	37216	13509	27943	31057	66831	7895	34111
N	ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES	5244	14513	7232	22460	55193	47607	3856	25803
P	EDUCATION	551	1042	716	1991	3563	3147	636	..
Q	HUMAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES	17171	53953	35848	117833	70241	98505	24415	40216
R	ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION	411	4127	4688	20323	21014	9136	..	11684
S	OTHER SERVICE ACTIVITIES	2985	2369	1842	7083	7757	12490	2025	8582

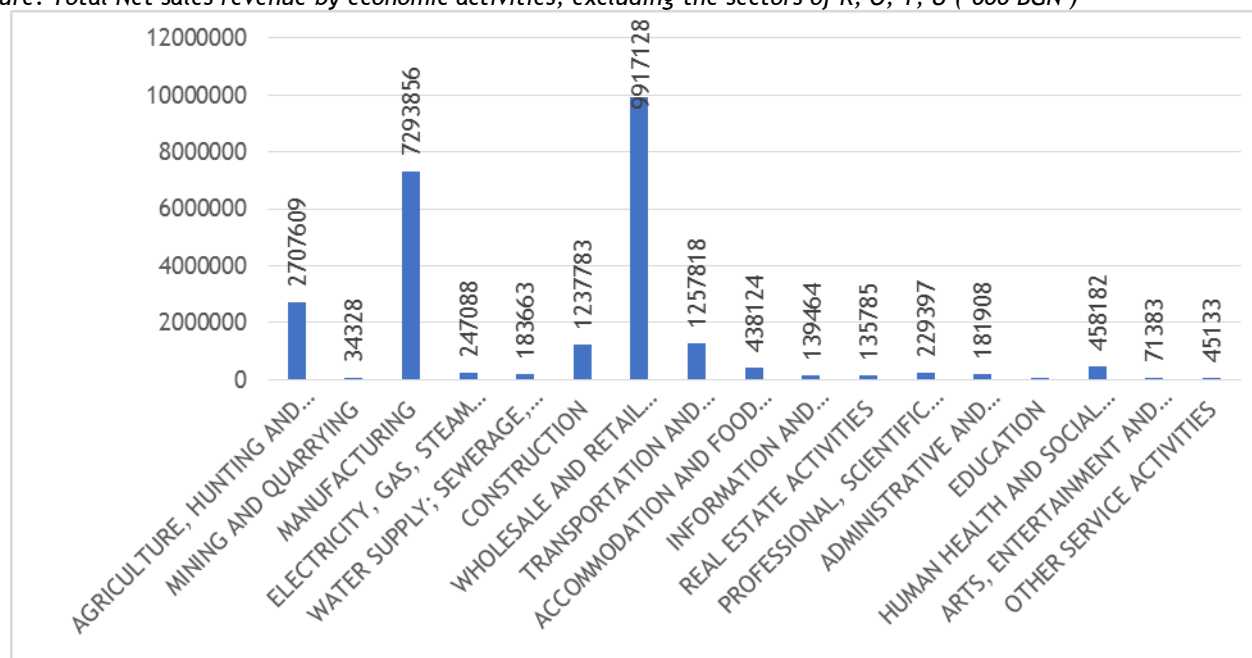
Source: NSI, Bulgaria

Descriptive Legend

... - presence of confidential data

By 'Net sales revenues', enterprises with an economic activity 'Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' form the most significant share for the eight Districts - 38.3%. Next, the 'Processing industry' is ranked by 28.2%, 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' by 10.5%, 'Transport, Storage and Posts, Construction' by approx. 5%. It is difficult to determine the percentage share of 'Production and distribution of electricity and heat fuels for gaseous fuels' due to the confidential data available.

Figure: Total Net sales revenue by economic activities, excluding the sectors of K, O, T, U ('000 BGN)



Source: NSI, Bulgaria

Compared to the number of enterprises, 'Net sales revenues' is the most relevant for the sectors of: Water Supply; sewerage, waste management and recovery, Production and distribution of electricity and heat fuels for gaseous fuels, Processing industry. Followed by 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries', 'Mining and quarrying industry'.

3.1.4. Indicator 4: Persons in employment

Table: Key Economic Indicators and Non-financial Enterprises by Districts, Municipalities and Economic Activities for the Year 2015 : Persons in employment (number)

NACE Rev. 2 (Section)	Region	Vidin	Vratsa	Montana	Pleven	Veliko Tarnovo	Ruse	Silistra	Dobrich
	Sector of economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)								
	TOTAL (for all activities, excluded K, O, T и U)	12831	32812	23073	52597	57804	64074	17753	36448
A	AGRICULTURE, HUNTING AND FORESTRY	851	2756	1757	4568	4610	3629	2805	5653
B	MINING AND QUARRYING	..	..	303	..	141	1276	..	..
C	MANUFACTURING	3191	7711	8434	19000	21176	24981	4676	8318

NACE Rev. 2 (Section)	Region	Vidin	Vratsa	Montana	Pleven	Veliko Tarnovo	Ruse	Silistra	Dobrich
	Sector of economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)								
D	ELECTRICITY, GAS, STEAM AND AIR CONDITIONING SUPPLY	353	..	40	..	374	..	..	..
E	WATER SUPPLY; SEWERAGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES	..	809	439	..	828	844	494	..
F	CONSTRUCTION	619	2438	1196	2725	3332	3020	1050	2028
G	WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES	3046	6574	5600	11563	13040	12494	4465	8387
H	TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE	989	1815	973	2405	2381	5069	777	1640
I	ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICE ACTIVITIES	859	1477	1106	1968	3094	2524	871	4055
J	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	156	314	183	396	967	918	..	291
L	REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES	158	352	197	745	838	674	202	545
M	PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES	446	592	477	946	1372	1962	378	985
N	ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES	376	792	375	1196	1180	1800	168	740
P	EDUCATION	37	84	65	164	190	..	..	96
Q	HUMAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES	985	2535	1609	4229	3004	3087	1272	1812
R	ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION	36	120	117	231	544	309	52	185
S	OTHER SERVICE ACTIVITIES	170	309	202	730	733	924	209	646

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

Descriptive Legend

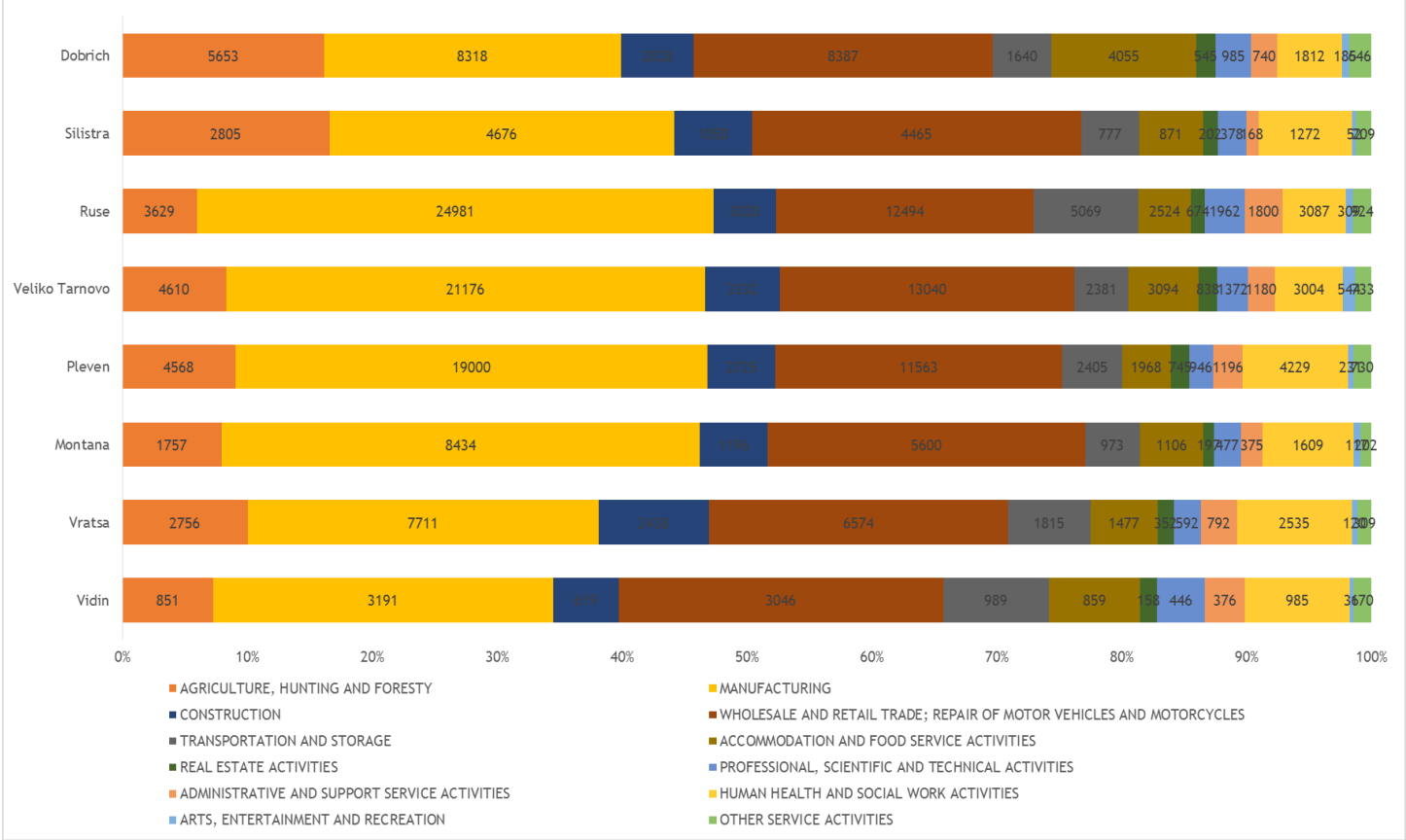
... - presence of confidential data

In 2015, the total number of people in employment on the eight Districts and for above mentioned the sectors, amounted to 297 392.

The following graph shows information on people in employment by Districts and by Sectors, not including those in which there are confidential data: Mining and quarrying industry, Production and distribution of electricity and heat fuels for gaseous fuels, Water Supply; sewerage, waste

management and recovery, Education, Creation and dissemination of information and creative products; telecommunications. In view of the low percentage of confidential data, it is assumed that this would not affect the displayed sectorial order.

Figure: Number of people in employment by Sectors and by Districts (excluding Sectors with Confidential Data)



Source: NSI, Bulgaria

The total number of people in employment is the highest in the Processing industry - 32.8%; Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles - 21.9%; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - 9.0%; Human health and social work - 6.2%. Compared to the number of enterprises in a given sector, the number of people in employment is greatest in the economic activities of Water Supply; sewerage, waste management and recovery, mining and quarrying industry, processing industry. Followed by: Construction, Transportation, Storage and Posts, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

3.1.5. Indicator 5: TFA for the current year

Table: Key Economic Indicators and Non-financial Enterprises by Districts, Municipalities and Economic Activities for the Year 2015: TFA for the current year ('000 BGN)

NAC+AU3:AX11 E Rev. 2 (Section)	Region								
	Sector of economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)	Vidin	Vratsa	Montana	Pleven	Veliko Tarnovo	Ruse	Silistra	Dobrich
	TOTAL (for all activities, excluded K, O, T и U)	523669	3864867	737280	198308 5	2056406	249353 0	811486	309708 4
A	AGRICULTURE, HUNTING AND FORESTRY	140088	251049	254168	511648	526591	328739	343642	685488
B	MINING AND QUARRYING	..	5990	31022	70134	..	..	..	..
C	MANUFACTURING	87862	331916	192274	435657	648634	904498	139863	246106
D	ELECTRICITY, GAS, STEAM AND AIR CONDITIONING SUPPLY	140501	..	..	233280	79108	76008	..	865583
E	WATER SUPPLY; SEWERAGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES	..	21089	..	28021	..	..	..	..
F	CONSTRUCTION	10633	72728	23637	68726	71336	68148	24562	74145
G	WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES	29026	62441	58087	215572	212631	385855	111955	192750
H	TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE	24615	58609	22393	99338	73115	258811	25712	38774
I	ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICE ACTIVITIES	11025	16777	24228	39184	70726	42114	17704	640289
J	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	4021	6871	3307	4091	15879	20886	2083	14399
L	REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES	45573	48949	30226	203795	221600	203776	84045	169602
M	PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES	4731	8658	8648	10443	20022	15857	5692	11321
N	ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES	4922	11715	4553	25067	16889	17817	3162	16863
P	EDUCATION	..	..	..	1126	8757	1026	401	845
Q	HUMAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES	..	36605	15889	30315	43729	49735	16468	28550
R	ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION	680	2232	1127	4251	3301	1879	159	20090
S	OTHER SERVICE ACTIVITIES	341	779	903	2437	3656	..	..	..

Source: NSI, Bulgaria

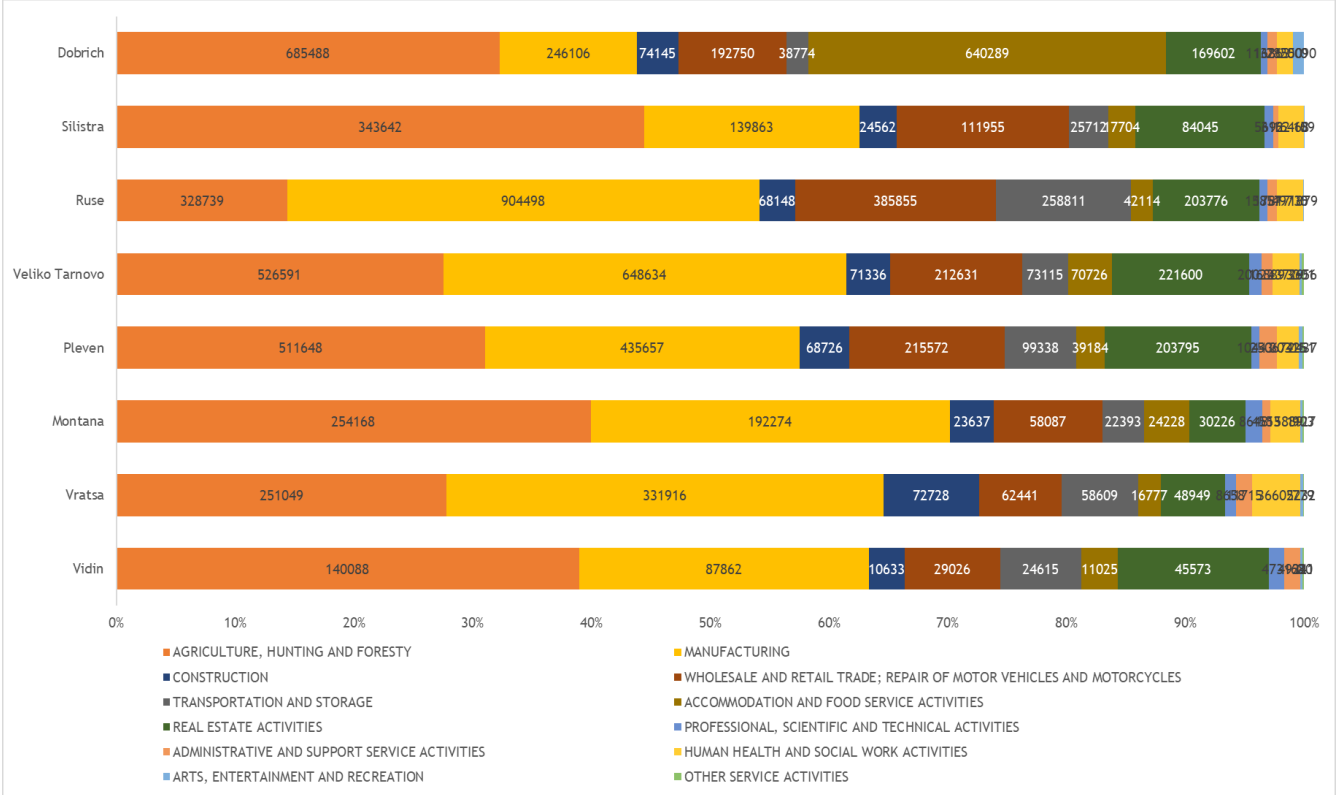
Descriptive Legend

... - presence of confidential data

TFA for the current year (2015) have been considered in order to determine the investments in the Sectors.

The TFA-based distribution of the eight Districts ordered the head place to the Sector of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries by 19.5%. Followed by the Processing industry - 19.2%; Production and distribution of electricity and heat fuels for gaseous fuels - 9%; Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles - 8.1%; Real estate transactions - 6.5%.

Figure: TFA for the current year by Sectors and by Districts (excl. any sectors with confidential data) '000 BGN



Source: NSI, Bulgaria

In the review of the current data, confidentiality is within the limits of more than 20% and covers the following economic activities: Mining and quarrying industry, Water Supply; Production and distribution of electricity and heat fuels; sewerage, waste management and recovery, Education, Other activities. For this reason, these have not been shown in the above graph. The data confidentiality rate is highest for the District of Vratsa, and it can be assumed that this refers to the sector of Production and distribution of electricity and heat fuels for gaseous fuels. If this is the case, this would put the Sector at the head place by TFA size for the District.

3.2.Data of analysis carried out on the Romanian Counties of the Cross-border region: Mehedinți, Dolj, Olt, Teleorman, Giurgiu, Călărași, Constanța

3.2.1. Indicator 1: Number of local units

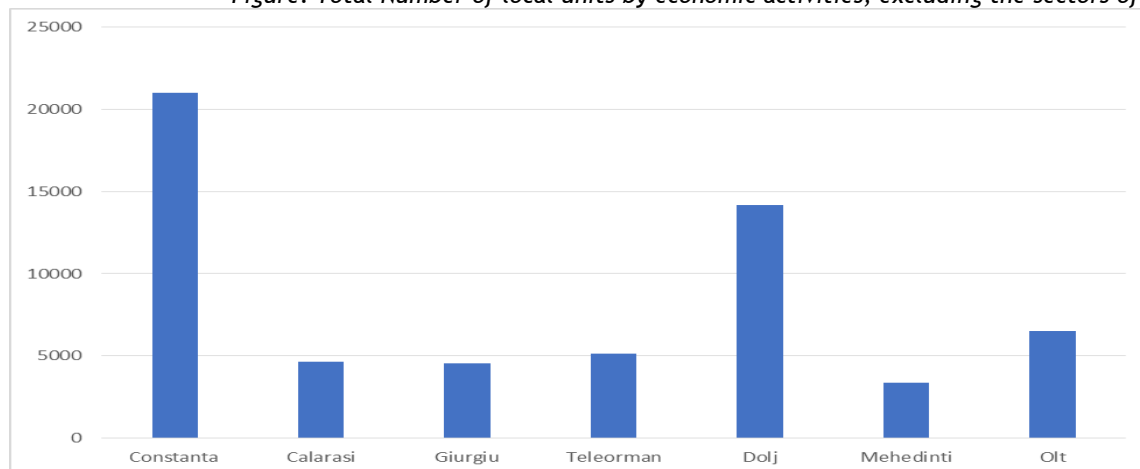
Table: Active local units by activities of the national economy at sector level CANE Rev.2, classes by size, by number of employees, macro-regions, development regions and counties for the Year 2015: Number of active local units

NACE Rev. 2 (Section)	County	Constanta	Calarasi	Giurgiu	Teleorman	Dolj	Mehedinti	Olt
	Sector of economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)							
	TOTAL (for all activities, excluded K, O, T и U)	21026	4637	4541	5109	14175	3341	6518
A	AGRICULTURE, HUNTING AND FORESTY	852	546	399	554	544	127	407
B	MINING AND QUARRYING	56	6	20	9	21	16	12
C	MANUFACTURING	1702	390	325	375	1386	295	671
D	ELECTRICITY, GAS, STEAM AND AIR CONDITIONING SUPPLY	64	9	19	21	30	11	8
E	WATER SUPPLY; SEWERAGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES	175	49	27	42	124	29	73
F	CONSTRUCTION	1665	388	625	299	1051	263	582
G	WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES	6757	1998	1849	2364	6053	1279	2828
H	TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE	2349	320	420	393	993	517	434
I	ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICE ACTIVITIES	1816	167	172	197	675	196	324
J	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	500	110	75	94	428	72	133
L	REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES	611	51	68	42	243	34	57
M	PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES	1977	315	231	337	1150	239	400
N	ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES	892	106	140	112	376	98	171
P	EDUCATION	168	24	21	29	99	19	37
Q	HUMAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES	433	64	38	110	443	49	190
R	ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION	393	40	35	44	175	32	53
S	OTHER SERVICE ACTIVITIES	616	54	77	87	384	65	138

Source: NSI, Romania

A total of 58213 local units fall within the scope of the seven Romanian Counties allocated to all economic activities except for the sectors of K, O, T and U. The largest number of units is reported in the Counties of Constanta, Dolj and Olt.

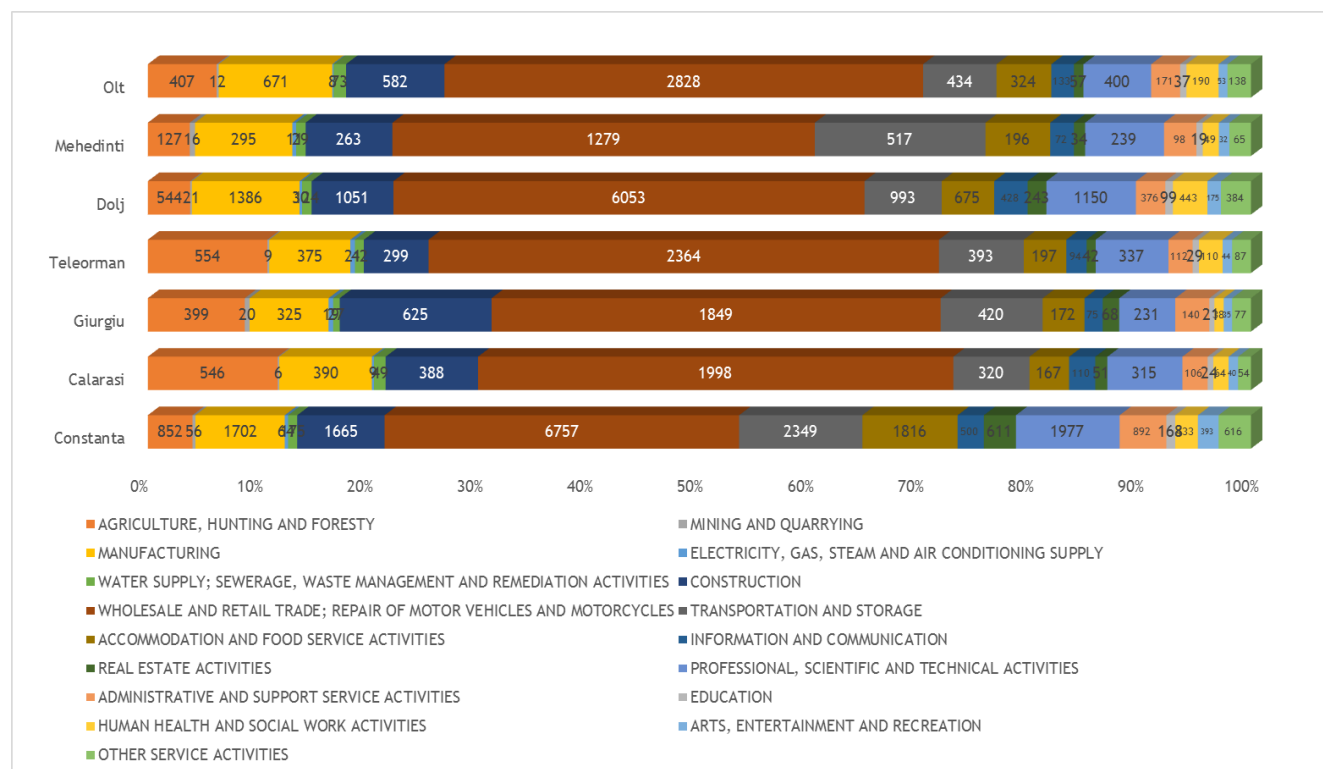
Figure: Total Number of local units by economic activities, excluding the sectors of K, O, T, U



Source: NSI, Romania

The distribution of the number of units by sectors is determined in the following graph. The units in the economic activities of Trade; Repair of automobiles and motorcycles, Processing industry, Construction dominate in all Counties.

Figure: Share of local units by sectors, relative to the total number of local units of the analysed counties



Source: NSI, Romania

Several leading economic activities stand out by separate counties, where the largest number of units exists. These are: Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles - by 38.5% compared to the total for the counties concerned, Transport, Storage and Posts - by 9.1%, Processing industry - by

8.7%, Construction - by 8.2%, Professional activities and scientific research - 7.8%, Hotels and restaurants - 6%, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - 5.8%.

3.2.2. Indicator 2: Turnover

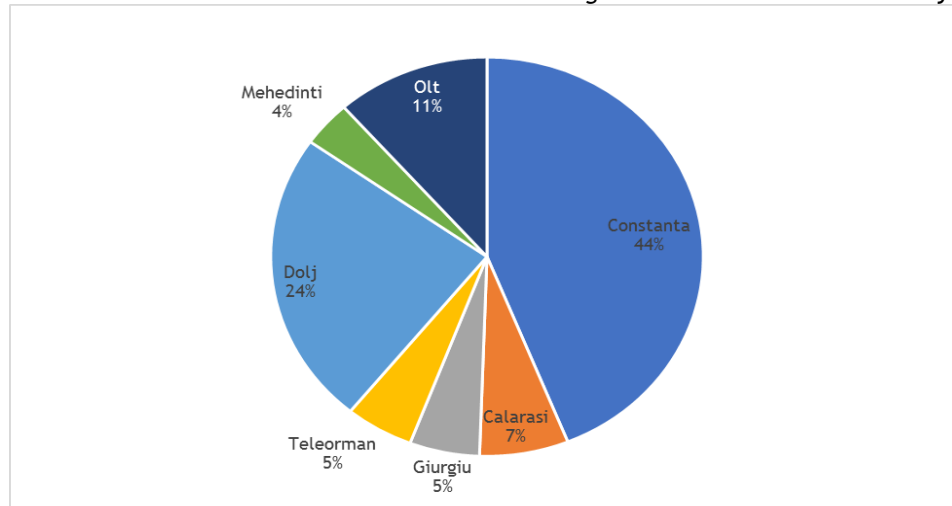
Table: Turnover by local units, by activities of the national economy at sector level CANE Rev.2, by size and by number of people in employment, macro regions, development regions and counties for the Year 2015: Turnover by local units in million lei (RON)

NACE Rev. 2 (Section)	County	Constanta	Calarasi	Giurgiu	Teleorman	Dolj	Mehedinti	Olt
	Sector of economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)							
	TOTAL FOR ALL REPRESENTED SECTORS (CALCULATED DATA)	50408	7631	6021	5854	27408	4264	13223
B	MINING AND QUARRYING	593	13	42	88	359	66	146
C	MANUFACTURING	15462	2876	1051	1282	7696	900	7655
D	ELECTRICITY, GAS, STEAM AND AIR CONDITIONING SUPPLY	3159	12	38	70	3192	80	2
E	WATER SUPPLY; SEWERAGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES	705	297	59	105	333	77	93
F	CONSTRUCTION	3052	373	687	430	1519	542	765
G	WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES	18767	3293	3071	3190	11310	1958	3766
H	TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE	4355	385	717	235	981	232	268
I	ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICE ACTIVITIES	1339	64	51	63	240	62	87
J	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	478	70	67	75	509	65	93
L, M, N	REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES; PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES; ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES	1742	167	192	211	763	138	229
P	EDUCATION	30	5	2	11	14	6	6
Q	HUMAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES	270	22	11	48	175	17	44
S	OTHER SERVICE ACTIVITIES	456	54	33	46	317	121	69

Source: NSI, Romania

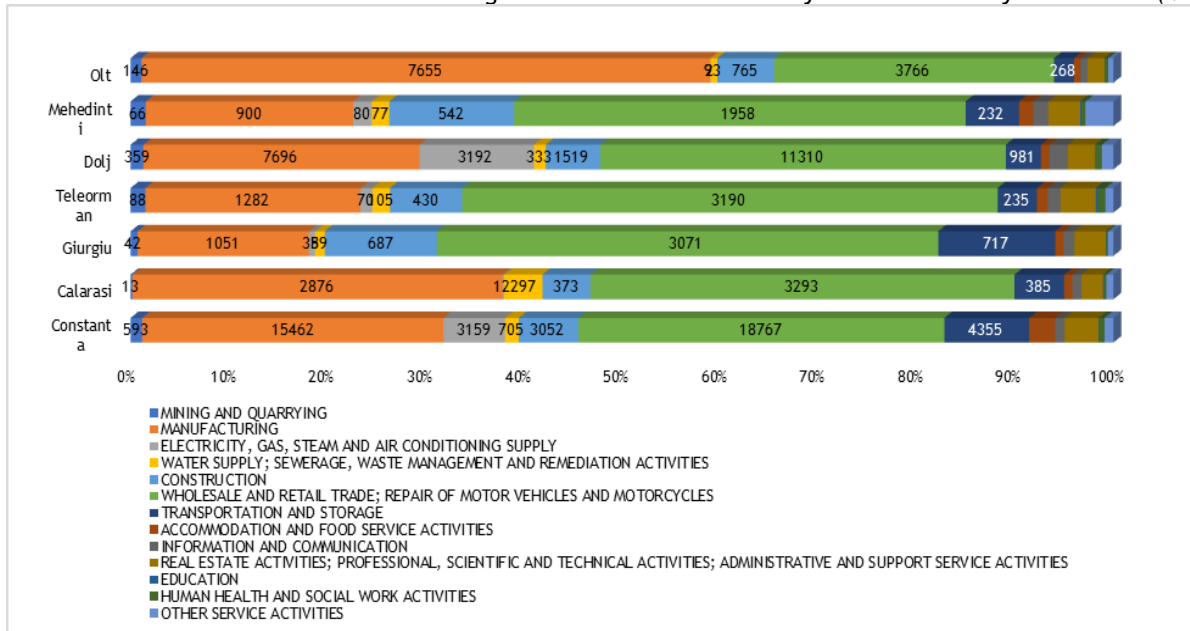
The largest turnover total amount achieved within the seven Counties is in County of Constanța, followed by Dolj and Olt.

Figure: Turnover share achieved by Local County Units



Source: NSI, Romania

Figure: Turnover distribution by economic activity and counties (Mln. RON)



Source: NSI, Romania

The highest amount of turnover is reported in the Sector of Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles - by 39.5%, followed by Processing industry - by 32.2%. Construction ranks with a share of 6.4%, Transport, Storage and Posts - by 6.2%, and by 5.7%.

In most of the Counties, 'Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles and processing industry' Activities equally dominate by this Indicator.

In referring the Turnover to the number of units by economic activities, the largest share has the Production and distribution of electricity and heat fuels for gas.

3.2.3. Indicator 3: Number of staff

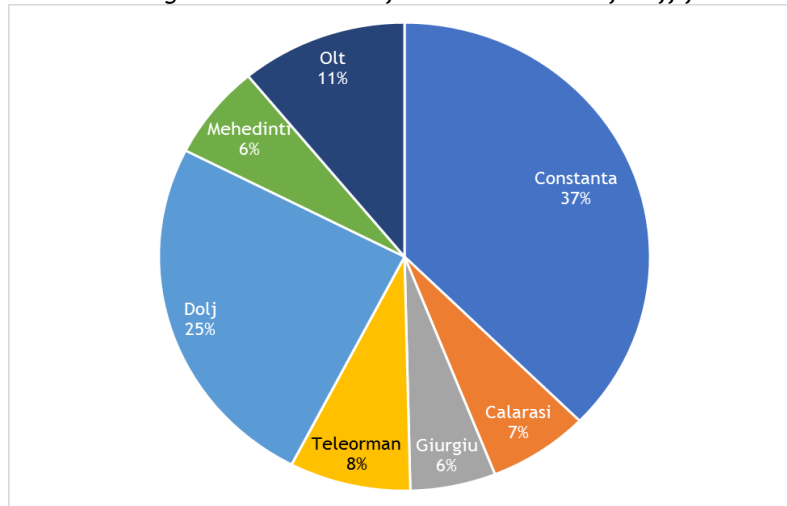
Table: Staff of local units by activities of the national economy at the sector level of CANE Rev.2, by size and by number of employees, macro-regions, development regions and counties for the Year 2015: **Number of staff**

NACE Rev. 2 (Section)	County	Constanta	Calarasi	Giurgiu	Teleorman	Dolj	Mehedinti	Olt
	Sector of economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)							
	TOTAL FOR ALL REPRESENTED SECTORS (CALCULATED DATA)	156639	27789	23577	33484	104314	27374	46022
B	MINING AND QUARRYING	1651	47	631	1662	968	696	919
C	MANUFACTURING	28654	10313	4405	11108	26356	8867	20326
D	ELECTRICITY, GAS, STEAM AND AIR CONDITIONING SUPPLY	3962	181	158	304	3177	1572	141
E	WATER SUPPLY; SEWERAGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES	4963	758	733	1076	2379	698	1029
F	CONSTRUCTION	15269	2639	3883	2380	9050	2777	4806
G	WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES	33752	7100	6517	8847	26785	5835	9978
H	TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE	23833	2261	2934	1875	13208	2248	1981
I	ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICE ACTIVITIES	12844	708	701	874	3168	1018	1061
J	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	3413	370	262	563	3562	317	493
L, M, N	REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES; PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES; ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES	20690	2714	2794	3650	11017	2385	3866
P	EDUCATION	749	158	76	114	367	106	177
Q	HUMAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES	2670	253	148	622	2089	269	584
S	OTHER SERVICE ACTIVITIES	4189	287	335	409	2188	586	661

Source: NSI, Romania

The total number of staff for the reference counties was 419199 th. people.

Figure: Distribution of the total number of staff for the analysed sectors by counties



Source: NSI, Romania

The Counties of Constanța, Dolj, Olt are again leading by this Indicator.

The largest share of staff By individual economic activities is in the Processing industry - by 26.2%, Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles - by 23.6%, followed by Transport, Storage and Posts - by 11.5% and a total for the three L, M, N - real estate operations; Professional activities and research; Administrative and auxiliary activities - by 11.2%

Compared to the local units by Counties, Employment in activities has the largest share in the Production and distribution of electricity and heat fuels for gaseous fuels, Mining and quarrying industry.

3.2.4. Indicator 5: Net investments in TFA

Table: Net TFA investments by local units, by activities of the national economy at sector level CANE Rev.2, by size and by number of employees, macro regions, development regions and counties for the Year 2015: **Net TFA investments by local units in million lei (RON)**

NACE Rev. 2 (Section)	County							
	Sector of economic activity (NACE Rev. 2)	Constanta	Calarasi	Giurgiu	Teleorman	Dolj	Mehedinti	Olt
	TOTAL FOR ALL REPRESENTED SECTORS (CALCULATED DATA)	3286	277	358	610	1256	243	964
B	MINING AND QUARRYING	206	..	157	435	155	14	246
C	MANUFACTURING	576	131	52	27	300	61	535
D	ELECTRICITY, GAS, STEAM AND AIR CONDITIONING SUPPLY	623	..	10	6	206	13	17
E	WATER SUPPLY; SEWERAGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES	257	2	8	33	5	70	4
F	CONSTRUCTION	80	14	18	18	108	15	45
G	WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES	282	51	40	43	151	26	63
H	TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE	867	25	45	16	147	23	25

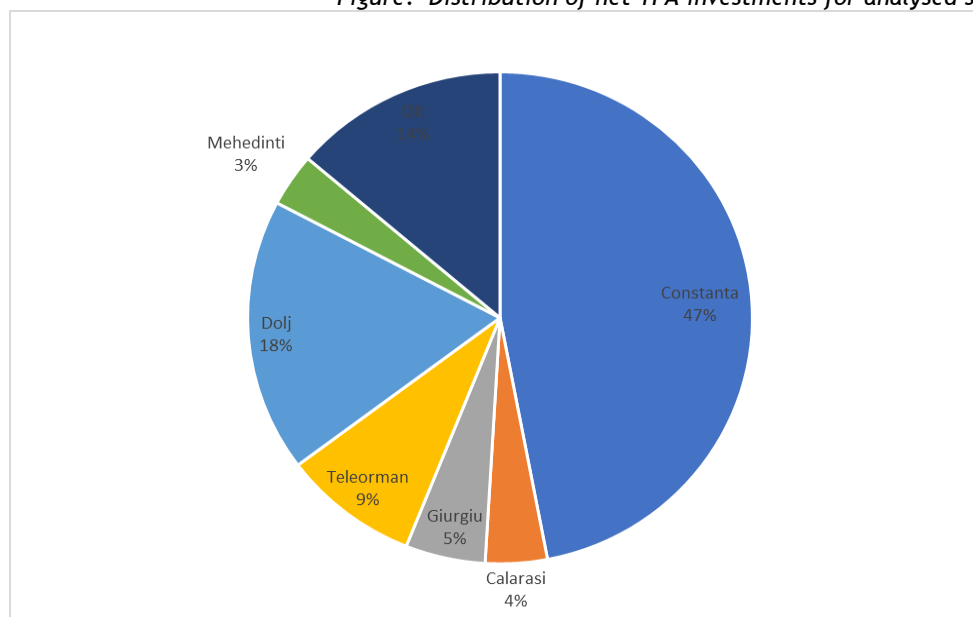
I	ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICE ACTIVITIES	159	21	7	13	67	4	4
J	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	26	7	6	4	18	4	10
L, M, N	REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES; PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES; ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES	166	15	10	11	66	7	10
P	EDUCATION	2	0	1	0	1	1	0
Q	HUMAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES	21	2	1	3	22	2	2
S	OTHER SERVICE ACTIVITIES	21	1	3	1	10	3	3

Source: NSI, Romania

Descriptive Legend

... - presence of confidential data

Figure: Distribution of net TFA investments for analysed sectors by counties



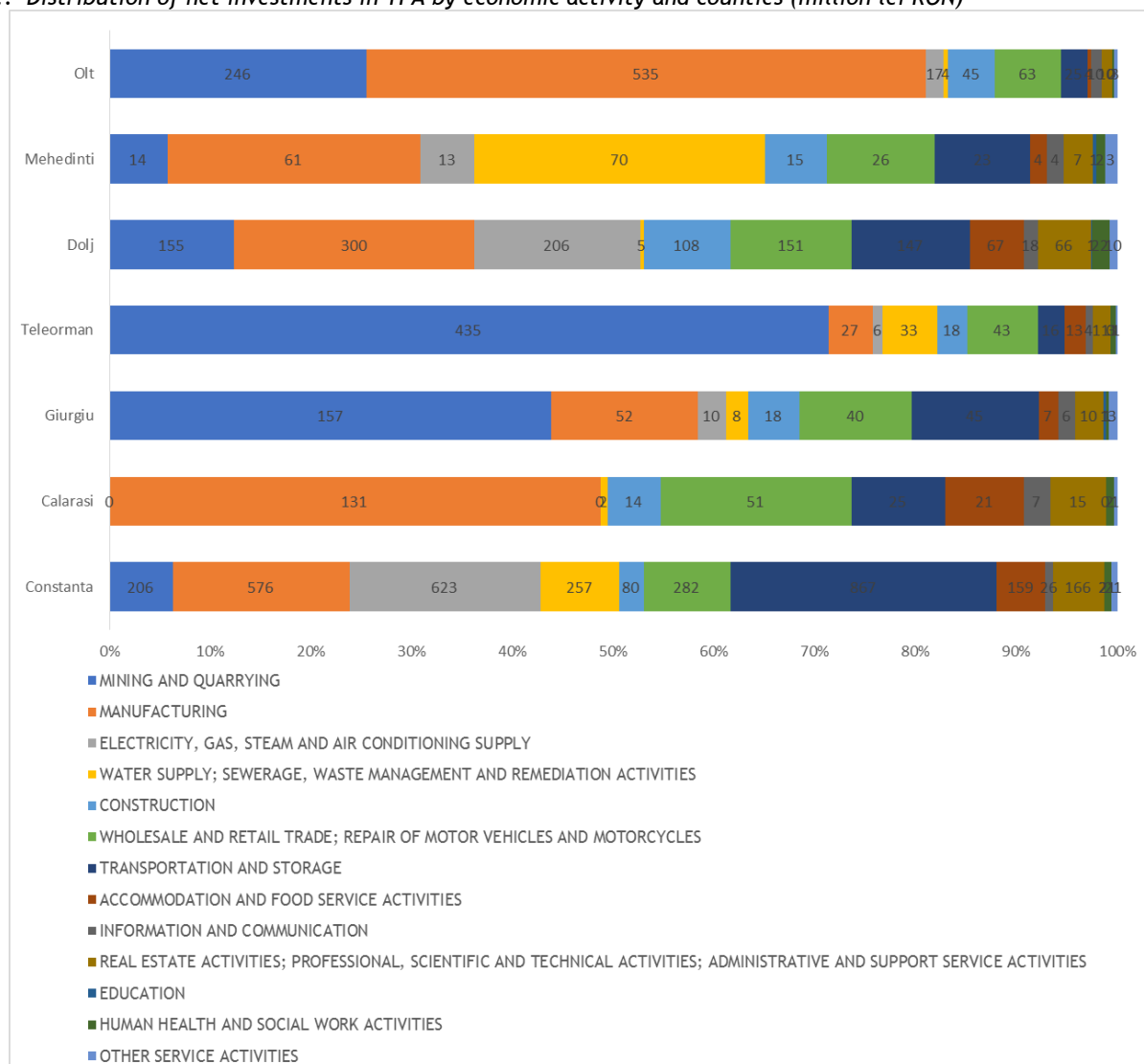
Source: Own calculations and NSI Romania data

The distribution based on net TFA investment for the seven Counties shows the following economic activities with the largest share:

- Processing industry - 24,3%
- Mining and quarrying industry - 17,2%
- Transport, Storage and Posts - 16,4%
- Production and distribution of electricity and heat fuels for gaseous fuels -12,5%
- Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles - 9,4%

A minimum percentage of confidential information exists only for the County of Călărași for the following sectors: Mining and quarrying industry, Production and distribution of electricity and heat fuels for gaseous fuels. This is not expected to have a significant effect on the above-mentioned ranking of the sectors.

Figure: Distribution of net investments in TFA by economic activity and counties (million lei RON)



Source: NSI, Romania

At county level, the largest share of net investment in Constanta is formed by economic activities: Transport, Storage and Posts; in Teleorman and Giurgiu - of Mining and quarrying industry; the Processing Industry is leading in Olt, Călărași and Dolj. The County of Mehedinți stands out by the Investment in TFA for the Sector of Water Supply; sewerage, waste management and recovery. The largest relative share in net investments is held by the local units of the Sectors: Mining and quarrying industry, Production and distribution of electricity and heat fuels for gaseous fuels.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1. Districts in the cross-border region: Vidin, Vratsa, Montana, Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo, Ruse, Silistra, Dobrich

- By 'Number of enterprises' Indicator for the eight Bulgarian Districts, leading sectors of economic activity are: Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles - between 35% and 46% of all enterprises in a District; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - between 6% and 15%

of all enterprises in a District; Processing industry - includes between 7% and 11% of all enterprises in a District, Hotels and Restaurant Management - between 6% and 8.5% of all enterprises in a District; Professional activities and research - between 5% and 9% of all enterprises in a District; Transport, Storage and Posts - between 5% and 7% of all enterprises in a District .

- By 'Production manufactured' Indicator for the eight Bulgarian Districts, sectors of economic activity are: Processing industry - BGN 6.84 billion; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - BGN 2.71 billion; Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles - BGN 1.78 billion; Transportation, Storage and Posts - BGN 1.24 billion; Construction - BGN -1.22 billion.
- By 'Net sales revenues' Indicator for the eight Bulgarian Districts, leading sectors of economic activity are: Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles - 38.3%; Processing industry - by 28.2%; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - by 10.5%; Transport, Storage and Posts and Construction - by about 5%.
- By 'Persons in employment' Indicator for the eight Bulgarian Districts, leading sectors of economic activity are: Processing industry - 32.8%; Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles - 21.9%; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - 9.0%; Human health and social work - 6.2%.
- By 'TFA' Indicator for the current year for the eight Bulgarian Districts, leading sectors of economic activity are: Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries -19.5%; Processing industry - 19.2%, Production and distribution of electricity and heat fuels for gas - 9%, Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles - 8.1%, Real estate operations - 6.5%

According to the data shown and the data from the strategic documents reviewed for the region, the following sectors with the potential to provide employment are identified:

- **Processing industry**
 - Food industry
 - Meat production and processing; production of meat products
 - Production of milk and dairy products;
 - Production of beverages;
 - Production of tobacco products
 - Production of chemical products;
 - Production of textiles and textile products
 - Production of wearing apparel
 - Production of food products and beverages, tobacco products;
 - Production of wood, paper and paperboard;
 - Metalworking
 - Production of metals and fabricated metal products;
 - Production of items of other non-metallic mineral raw materials;
 - Production of vehicles
- **Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles**
- **Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**
 - Growing of plant
 - Growing of cereals (excluding rice) and legumes and oilseeds;
 - Growing of perennials
 - Livestock breeding
 - Poultry breeding;
 - Sheep and cattle breeding;
 - Pig breeding;
 - Cattle breeding, milkshakes;
 - Beekeeping
 - Fisheries and aquaculture

Ocean and sea fishing

4.2. Counties in a cross-border region: Mehedinți, Dolj, Olt, Teleorman, Giurgiu, Călărași, Constanța

- By 'Number of Units' Indicator for the Seven Romanian Counties, leading sectors of economic activity are: Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles - by 38.5%, Transport, Storage and Posts - by 9.1%, Processing industry by 8.7%, Construction - by 8.2%, Professional activities and scientific research - 7.8%, Hotels and restaurants - 6%, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - 5.8%.
- By 'Turnover' Indicator for the seven Romanian Counties, leading sectors of economic activity are: Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles - by 39.5%, followed by Processing industry - by 32.2%. Construction has a 6.4% share, Transport, Storage and Posts - by 6.2%, and by 5.7%.
- By 'Number of staff' Indicator for the Seven Romanian Counties, leading sectors of economic activity are: Processing industry - by 26.2%, Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles - by 23.6%, followed by Transport, Storage and Posts - by 11.5% and total for the three L, M, N - Real Estates Operations; Professional activities and research; Administrative and auxiliary activities - by 11.2%
- By 'Net Investment in TFA' Indicator for the Seven Romanian Counties, leading sectors of economic activity are: the following economic activities with the largest share are: Processing industry - 24.3%, Mining and quarrying industry - 17.2%, Transport, Storage and Posts - 16.4%, Production and distribution of electricity and thermal fuels for gas -12.5%, Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles - 9.4%

As a result of the analysis carried out, the information studied from strategic documents and expert evaluation, in summary, the following leading sectors and sections with potential for employment are outlined:

- Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- Processing industry
 - Production of food products and beverages
 - Production of textiles
 - Production of clothing and footwear
 - Production of chemical products
 - Production of furniture
 - Production of cars
 - Shipbuilding, Repair and maintenance of vessels
 - Production of locomotives, wagons and wagons
 - Production of metals and metal products
 - Production of machines and mechanical parts
- Transport, Storage and Posts
 - Land and water transport
 - Storage of freight and auxiliary transport activities.

IV. Activity 2: Identification of sectors with development potential and Study on the need of specific skilled Labour force

1. PLACED OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Within the scope of this Activity, a Study was prepared which could be logically redefined into two mutually dependent stages: analysis of the 15 districts and counties in the Cross-Border Region, in order to identify the sectors with development potential from high-tech and medium-tech industries; Study on the needs for skilled employees of identified enterprises of high-tech and medium-high-tech industries.

These are sectors where employees with specific qualifications are employed, due to the nature of the activity, the involved processes, the technologies and the equipment used in order to implement a finished product. The population in the Cross-Border Region is traditionally employed in the field of agriculture, but the technological development and globalisation processes have exerted their impact, as a result of which a development is observed in such sectors that create an employment potential for specialists with a narrower focus.

The choice of high-tech industries is based on the latest classification of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development - for high-tech and medium-tech industry sectors, and in terms of the Services - the choice of the sectors is based on their relevance to the high-tech industries.

Sectors providing a development potential are determined based on the number of economic units, differentiated by their economic activity code and their size. Major economic units that are important both for the region and for the national economy of the two countries stand out in every District and County. Within the Second Stage, a Quiz Survey was conducted by means of questionnaires among the enterprises of sectors identified with a development potential in order to determine the possibilities of ensuring long-term employment, the need for labour force and the qualification level to be hold.

As a result of the Study:

- A map of the sectors of high-tech and medium-high-tech industries with a development potential in the Cross-Border Region between Bulgaria and Romania has been drawn up;
- A profile of the ideal candidate based on the results of the Study of organizations in high-tech and high-tech sectors has been identified.

2. IMPLEMENTATION METHODOLOGY OF THIS STUDY

The objective is to apply this methodology in order to identify the economic sectors in the Cross-Border Region (high-tech and medium-high-tech) with a development potential in which people with specific competencies and qualifications could find a long-term employment.

In implementing the assignment, high-tech and medium-high-tech sectors with development potential have been identified, as outlined in the strategic documents of Bulgaria and Romania. The information obtained served as a basis for their ranking. A rating was compiled, by processing the data acquired from official national sources, in accordance with the number of economic units for each sector and their size. During the data processing, enterprises that stand out as large employers in their district/county were identified. These organisations have been addressed for consultancy, including questions associated with the competencies that their jobseekers should possess. The information obtained as a result from the Study was processed and analysed. All activities and results were documented.

The Study passed through the following stages:

- Identifying the strategic documents containing information on sectors with a development potential, in the field of high-tech and medium-high-tech sectors. All strategic documents developed for administrative districts and counties in the Cross-Border Region were considered. Sectors, identified unequivocally as having a development potential, were selected thereof.
 - Analysing and using the findings from strategic documents;
 - Collecting and processing the data on the number and the size of enterprises in identified high-tech and medium-tech sectors as specified by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The data were collected from national sources such as NSI and the Commercial Register.
 - Analysing processed data and ranking the sectors with development potential. Ranking of sectors was implemented through a perceived approach based on a multi-criteria analysis. The logic of the approach was as follows: a large enterprise present in the sector is a prerequisite for creating more jobs and therefore it was rated with the highest factor. A micro enterprise with a staff of between 1 and 9 people was the basis for comparison, as this is not a prerequisite for creating many job positions, their number will be counted in real terms. In small enterprises, job positions are between 10 to 50, which raise more important attitude to their presence in the sector and their number will be multiplied by a factor of 2. Accordingly, medium-sized enterprises would create more than 5 times more jobs than micro-enterprises, which raise the need to multiply their number by a factor of 5. Large enterprises create jobs for more than 250 people, which is at least 25 times higher than those in the micro-enterprises, so the factor by which their number will be multiplied is 25. The results obtained for each Sector are aggregated separately and ranked by size.
-
- Conducting a Quiz Survey aimed at companies operating in high tech and medium-tech sectors.
 - Analysing and drawing conclusions based on the Study results.

The following methods were used for this Study:

- Quantitative method of collecting information from available databases in NSI - Romania, Commercial Register - Bulgaria and information obtained from strategic documents;

- Qualitative method of collecting information based on the answers received from questions addressed to companies operating in high-tech and IT sectors identified as "sectors with a development potential";
- Analysis, synthesis and summarizing of information collected.

Sources of information used:

- NSI - Romania;
- Commercial Register - Bulgaria;
- Europe 2020 Strategy of the European Commission;
- Innovative Strategy for Smart Specialization 2014-2020 of Bulgaria;
- Romania's National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation 2014-2020
- Strategies for Smart Specialisation in South Muntenia region
- Strategies for Smart Specialisation in South West Oltenia region
- Press release on the approval of a strategy for smart specialization of the Southeast Development Region;
- Classification of the industries in categories based on R&D intensities of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development;
- APIS Information System;
- ListaFirme Information Register, Romania
- Statistical classification of the economic activities within the European Union „NACE, Rev. 2“
- "TOP 1500+ Companies ranked at the value of the net sales revenue in 2015" Ranking of the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

3. RESULT

3.1. Identification of the economic sectors of high tech and medium-tech industries, with development potential, according to the strategic documents of Bulgaria and Romania

As a result of this Study, people's awareness of what qualifications and skills they need to have in order to find a long-term employment should increase. In economy, the concept of "long-term" is usually associated with a period of more than one year. Examples can be given with the definitions of:

- Long-term assets - enterprise's own funds with low liquidity, of which obtaining economic benefit is expected in the future through distribution (dividends, interest) or through long-term sale, i.e. a period longer than 1 year;
- Long-term liabilities - Long-term loans (repayment term over 1 year), liabilities under leasing contracts);
- Long-term unemployment - In European Union statistics, this is how an unemployment, which lasts more than one year, is determined.

Following these definitions, we can talk about a ‘long-term employment’ if it is over one year. A statement to provide ‘employment over one year’ can be given by companies with a development potential. Determining the development potential of a sector is a strategic approach of analysing the available capacities, from the point of view of the external and internal environment, the available resources, trends etc., that can lead to the sector’s expanding and increasing its operating revenue. High-Tech and Medium-Tech Sectors with development potential are predefined in the Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation and in the Strategy for Smart Specialisation at the level of Development Region for all Romanian Counties part of the Cross-border Region developed in response to the objectives set for the European a Union in order to exit the crisis and to prepare the EU economy for the next decade, set out in the Europe 2020 Strategy, namely:

- Smart Growth: knowledge and innovation based economy development;
- Sustainable Growth: encouraging low carbon, efficient in terms of energy sources and competitive economy;
- Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

"Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization 2014-2020" and "National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation 2014-2020" referred to Bulgaria and Romania stand out for several sectors identified as "sectors with development potential" and to which the investments of the countries concerned will mainly target.

In Bulgaria, the group of high and medium-high-tech industries includes the following sectors: **manufacture of pharmaceutical substances and products, chemicals, rubber, plastics, metals, machinery and vehicles, computers, electronics and optics, telecommunication services, information services and scientific research and development activities.**

In Romania, the strategy provides guidance for developing regional smart specialization strategies by identifying the priority areas of: **bio-economy; information and communication technologies, space and security; energy, environment and climate change and eco-nano technologies and materials.**

According to the so-defined priority areas, the socio-economic characteristics of each region and the classification of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the respective high and medium-tech sectors with development potential are identified in the regional strategies of:

- **Southwest Oltenia**, including the cross-border Counties of Mehenditi, Olt and Dolj- **production of vehicles, chemicals, rubber, plastics, metals and their products, drug substances and products.**
- **South Muntenia**, including the cross-border Counties of Calarasi, Giurgiu and Teleorman - **production of metal products, household appliances, machinery, engines, parts and accessories for cars, cars, information technology services.**

According to the official presentation of the Regional Strategy for Smart Specialization developed on the **South-Eastern Region**, including the cross-border County of Constanta, the following areas with development potential are identified: **production and services in the field of information technologies, production of special purpose machines, production of nanotechnologies and modern materials.**

Since the growth of a sector provides new vacancies in the region, a development potential has been relevant to the capacity to provide long-term employment (over one year, according to agreed definitions). The main indicators of the sector's size are the number of enterprises/local units operating therein and their size. Therefore, an approach has been taken, according to which the enterprises/local units in the sectors as identified, by number are divided to micro, small, medium and large, compared to the average number of staff, respectively:

- Micro - average staffing list number of less than 10 people;
- Small - average staffing list number of 10 to 49 people;
- Medium - average staffing list number of 50 to 249 people;
- Large - average staffing list number over 250 people.

In addition to their size, enterprises/local units are also divided by Economic Activity Code, according to the 3-digit level of the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community - NACE Rev.2.

For the purposes of the Study, all sectors identified as "having a development potential" under the "Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization 2014-2020" and the "National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation 2014-2020" for Bulgaria and Romania are assessed in terms of their size, as these are the High-Tech and Medium-Tech Sectors with the largest number of enterprises and people in employment.

The analysis on the number of active local economic units in the Counties of Constanta, Calarasi, Giurgiu, Teleorman, Olt, Dolj, Mehedinti in Romania is based on data provided by the National Statistical Institute of Romania. The analysis on the Bulgarian Districts of Dobrich, Silistra, Ruse, VelikoTarnovo, Pleven, Vratsa, Montana and Vidin is based on data from the Commercial Register.

3.1.1. Trends in the Cross-Border Region

Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union at the same time in January 2007. The two countries are still the poorest within European society and, according to the third edition of the Regional Competitiveness Index, the North-western Region (Bulgaria) is defined as the poorest of all 263 regions, within the borders of the European Union. North-Central and Northeast, on the Bulgarian side, and South-western Oltenia and South Muntenia, from Romanian side are ranked further on the ranking. All the Bulgarian regions and all the Romanian Counties (except Constanta) that are part of the Cross-Border Region are included in the regions identified as "the poorest". Therefore, it is not excessive to say that this is one of the poorest regions within the European Union.

Due to the Bulgarian Districts and the Romanian Counties similar economic situation, there are clearly expressed general trends in the Cross-Border Region caused by the same demographic problems and the similar climatic, natural and economic conditions. The number of population in the districts and counties is progressively declining due to the increase in the average age and migration processes. The lack of young and qualified staff affects the specialization in the Cross-Border Region, but despite this, the low pay attracts foreign investors, as a process is observed of exporting productions and activities of large international companies to some of the Bulgarian Districts and the Romanian Counties. The combination of these processes is expected to change the economic outlook of the region in the near future.

As a result of the analysis of enterprises and local units in the high-tech and medium-tech sectors, several general trends in the size of the sectors and their coverage in the Bulgarian Districts and the Romanian Counties stand out.

For example, in terms of number and size of enterprises in twelve of the fifteen districts, ICT activities stand out. What is interesting here is that the size of this sector is determined almost entirely by the number of micro and small enterprises as basic economic units. By contrast, the number of medium and large enterprises is negligible and has no direct impact on the size of the sector. This is as a result from the low costs of developing any activities in the field of information technology, the dynamic technological progress, the improvement of communication channels and the extremely rapid development of the IT sector on a global scale. In conclusion, the IT services sector provides opportunities for development, especially for starting up self-business, due to the lack of regulatory and financial barriers to free entry. Comparison can be made with the group of high and medium-high-tech industries, where the size of the sector depends mainly on the number of medium and large enterprises in the County/District as main engines of the production activity. The production of metal products, with an exception of machinery and equipment, and the production of rubber and plastic products are covered in all areas subject to Study within this group. The production area is characterized by high barriers to entry into the industry, mainly due to the high cost of initial investment, the need for a large number of Labour Force, which determines the importance of medium and large enterprises for the size of the sector, while the number of micro and small is not decisive.

The production of general and special purpose machinery and equipment is characteristic of all Bulgarian Districts in the Cross-Border Region, while the development potential of the Romanian Counties is in the field of telecommunication and the manufacturing of vehicles, with an exception of cars.

3.1.2. Sectors with development potential by Districts and Counties.

District of Dobrich

Besides the Information Technology sector, the Production of Plastic Products, in particular the Production of Packaging, is widely spread in Dobrich and the District. The largest enterprise in this field and the District as a whole is "Plasthim-T" AD with more than 1000 people average staffing list

number. It ranks 56th in the ranking of the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry "TOP 1500" - companies ranked at the value of net sales revenue for 2015.

Potential for securing long-term employment exists in the production of metal products for construction, mainly in the production of metallic joinery, as well as in the metal processing. Dobrich, remains one of the regions where the population in employment is mainly in the agriculture sector (over 37% in 2015 according to NSI data). This predetermines the necessity of the production of agricultural machinery and forestry - one of the medium-tech sectors that falls within the scope of the District's economics and determines the need for skilled professionals and offers the potential to provide long-term employment.

According to the 3-digit level of classification of economic activities in the EU, there are the following high-tech and medium-tech sectors with development potential in the field:

- 620 "Activities in the field of Information technology";
- 222 "Production of products of plastics";
- 251 "Production of metal products for Construction";
- 256 "Other metalworking"
- 283 "Production of agricultural and forestry machinery".

District of Silistra

In Silistra, the sectors of the medium-high-tech industries stand out with a development potential. One of the largest among them, which estimated by number of enterprises therein and by their size, is the production of rubber products. The Production of Metal Products for Construction and other metal products, the Production of electromechanical and therapeutic devices and the Production of other general purpose machinery are among the other sectors with development potential of which no large enterprises stand out, as the number of small and medium-sized ones is predominant.

High-tech industries are not particularly developed in the District of Silistra. Here, even the IT Sector that stands out in the rest of the Bulgarian Districts is not well presented. However, it is worth

mentioning that one of the leading manufacturers of electronic computing equipment and fiscal devices (highly high-tech manufacturing sector), Orgtechnica AD, with staff of nearly 100 people, is positioned in Silistra. "Elika Elevator" OOD, an enterprise with nearly 100 people, specialized in the production of lifting machines, is noteworthy. However, both sectors do not stand out with any particular development potential in the District.

According to the classification of economic activities, the sectors of development potential in Silistra fall within the following 3-digit codes:

- 221 "Production of Rubber Products"
- 251 "Production of metal products for construction"
- 259 "Production of other metal products"
- 266 "Production of Emitting Electro-Medical and Therapeutic Apparatus"

- 282 "Production of other general purpose machinery".

District of Ruse

In Ruse, more than 120 micro and small enterprises are running their businesses in the Information Technology sector. This reinforces the trend and defines the sector as one having the highest development potential in the District.

Here, one again the production of plastic products and other metal products is covered. In the 'Production of other General Purpose Machinery' the main and the largest employer in the sector is Sparky AD, providing nearly 500 jobs. The company ranks 410th in the BCCI ranking "TOP 1500+". Another sector with development potential in Ruse is the 'Production of Parts and Accessories for Automobiles', the branch is represented by two of the largest companies in the District - "A.L. Filter" OOF (over 700 jobs) and "Montupet" EOOD (over 900 employees), the two companies are also ranked the 280th and 53rd place, respectively in the "TOP 1500" ranking. In summary, the sectors with development potential in the District, according to the economic activity code are:

- 620 „Activities in the field of information technology “
- 222 „Production of products of plastics“
- 259 „Production of other metal products “
- 282 „Production of other general purpose machinery “
- 293 „Production of parts and accessories for automobiles “

Although they do not fall within the scope of the high-tech and medium-tech sectors with development potential, it is necessary to consider the presence of several enterprises (included in the "TOP 1500" ranking), whose activity is, by its nature, relevant not only for the District but also for the national economy of Bulgaria, these are namely:

- "Dunarit" AD - production of armaments and ammunition; over 1200 jobs;
- "Express Service" OOD - production of Locomotives, Motrices and Wagons; over 100 jobs.

The above stated companies offer conditions for providing jobs to specialists in areas that are not widespread and require specific skills and qualifications.

District of VelikoTarnovo

There is a wide variety of employers in VelikoTarnovo. Well established companies in the food and beverage industry and many breweries are running their businesses, here. Over the last two years, an improvement in the economic performance was noticed, as according to one of the latest studies of the Institute for Market Economics, Veliko Tarnovo has the best performance on the labour market in Northern Bulgaria as a whole. In the District, the economic activity is increasing, due to the companies with established manufacturing traditions expanding their business, but also to dozens of newly established software and IT companies.

According to the current methodology, the Information Technology activities in the District fall within the scope of the high-tech and medium-tech sectors with development potential, and dozens

of micro and small organizations have been established in Veliko Tarnovo that determine the size of the sector. The other sectors with development potential are in the manufacturing sector and their size is determined by the presence of medium and large enterprises. In one of them - the production of products of plastics - the largest companies in the District operate: Megaport OOD, Extrapack OOD with more than 650 staff, Momina Krepost AD with more than 100 jobs etc.. The largest producer among the 'Production of Metal Products for Construction' and 'Metal Processing' together with the 'Production of General Purpose Machinery', is "Skladova Technika" AD with more than 100 employees and ranked 798th in the BCCI TOP 1500 ranking. The sectors with development potential identified have the following codes of economic activity:

- 620 „Activities in the field of information technology “
- 222 „Production of products of plastics“
- 251 „‘Production of Metal Products for Construction’ “
- 256 „Other metalworking“
- 282 „Production of other general purpose machinery “

Arcus AD is one of the companies in the District, which has a significant impact on the economy of Veliko Tarnovo. The company is engaged in production of weapons and ammunition; the sector is not identified with development potential, as the enterprise is the only one in the District operating in this field but providing jobs for more than 2,000 people, besides it is ranked 143th in TOP 1500 Bulgarian companies based on their net income, which determines its significance also for our national economy.

District of Pleven

District of Pleven is the only one across the Cross-Border Region where the R & D sector is identified as a sector with development potential and providing opportunities for long-term employment. Several institutes, micro and small businesses are running their businesses in the District, engaged in

researches in the field of agricultural sciences. The National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology is also located in Pleven, which provides jobs for more than 200 people.

The other sectors with development potential are in the field of medium-high-tech production. 'Production of metal products for the construction', with the largest enterprises in the sector being "Tasi" OOD and "Metekno Bulgaria" AD. The 'Production of other metal products' also has the potential to provide long-term employment, the largest enterprise in the sector is Sarten Bulgaria OOD, specialized in the production of light metal packaging, ranked 284th among the 1500 companies with the highest net income in the country. There are dozens of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises employed in the plastic packaging industry of the District. The 'Production of special purpose machines' is widely covered, as the main engines of the sector are such companies as Esmos AD, Enerkemical OOD, Hem AD, Tractor OOD and Ilinden EOOD. The sectors identified with development potential fall into the following codes of economic activity:

- 721 „Scientific research and development activities in the field of natural, medical, agricultural and technical sciences;

- 251 „Production of Metal Products for Construction“
- 259 „Production of other metal products “
- 289 „Production of other special purpose machinery “
- 222 „Production of products of plastics“.

District of Vratsa

In the district of Vratsa the only Nuclear Power Plant in Bulgaria and the biggest producer of electricity in the country - "Kozloduy NPP" EAD - is operating. It is of great national importance and is decisive for the economy of the District. In order to ensure its continuous maintenance and operation, several large enterprises have been established over the years to produce machines and metal structures designed to support the main and auxiliary equipment for the Plant. As a consequence, the sectors in the field of 'Production of special purpose machinery' are defined as such with a development potential compared to the number and size of enterprises therein. The largest companies in the District, which provide resources for the repair activities of the NPP, are Energoremont-Kozloduy EOOD and Interpriborservice OOD. Special purpose machines are produced by ZMM Vratsa AD and Garant AD.

Although in terms of the sector's size it is assumed that the number of micro and small enterprises should be considered, the Production of plastic products is among the sectors with development potential, with the largest enterprise specialized in the Production of PVC joinery being Tediem Plast OOD. The situation in the information technology sector is similar and it is expected to continue to grow.

The sectors identified with development potential in the District of Vratsa, according to the classification of economic activities, are:

- 620 „Activities in the field of information technology “
- 222 „Production of products of plastics“
- 251 „Production of metal products for construction “
- 256 „Other metalworking “
- 289 „Production of other special purpose machinery “

District of Montana

The high-tech and medium- high-tech sectors with a development potential in the District of Montana almost entirely overlap with the rest of the Bulgarian Districts in the Cross-Border Region. The difference is only in the sector of Production of other vehicles, where the companies "Cross" OOD (over 300 people of staff) and Sprinter OOD (nearly 70 people in employment) specialized in the Production of bicycles and parts thereof, run their businesses. By 'Production of bicycles 'Bulgaria ranks among the top ones in Europe, but this is much more prevalent in the southern regions of the country. The other sectors standing out with development potential in Montana are the activities related to the Information technology, where micro and small businesses, Production of Plastic Packaging, Metal Processing and Production of other metal products dominate, as in this field ZIMP

AD, "BKK-95" OOD, "Silpa" OOD excel. Among the sectors with development potential are sectors with codes of economic activity:

- 620 „Activities in the field of information technology “
- 222 „Production of products of plastics“
- 259 „Production of other metal products“
- 256 „Other metalworking“
- 309 „Production of other vehicles“

District of Vidin

In the scope of the high-tech sectors with development potential, IT activities with more than 20 micro and small enterprises in the District stands out again also in Vidin. Production of rubber and plastic products is also widely represented as the largest manufacturer of Rubber Products is the company Ris Rubber Bulgaria AD, which ranks 792nd based on net revenues in the "TOP 1500" ranking. It is one of the leading enterprises in the District. The sector with development potential in Production of general purpose machinery is represented by the company Vipom AD, which employs nearly 200 people, furthermore, the Production of metal products for construction is also covered. The sectors identified with development potential in the District of Vidin fall under the following codes of economic activity:

- 620 „Activities in the field of information technology“
- 221 „Production of rubber products“
- 222 „Production of products of plastics“
- 251 „Production of Metal Products for Construction“
- 281 „Production of general purpose machinery“

County of Constanța

The geographic location of Constanța is partly decisive for the sectors that have development potential in the county. To the east, this County borders the Black Sea, and to the west the Danube River separates it from Calarasi. Constanta has also one of the largest ports in Europe. These are namely the factors that determine one of the sectors with development potential in the county to be the Construction of vessels. Daewoo Mangalia Heavy Industries SA, Naval Constanta SA, Argentinia SRL, Marman Comtrans SRL and Strong Systems Brothers SRL are among the major companies in the sector.

Among the medium-high-tech industries, Production of metal products for construction and plastics are the sectors with development potential. The number of small enterprises engaged in the Production of plastic products is decisive for the size of the sector, with the largest enterprise being Sterk Plast SRL. Similar is the situation with the Production of metal products, although nine medium-sized companies operate in the sector.

Telecommunications is another sector with development potential, in particular, the fixed networks activities. The number of enterprises is 46, 41 of which are micro and small, 4 medium and one large. The sector with the largest development potential in the region is in the field of Information

Technology, with a total of 225 micro and small businesses operating in the County of Constanta. The sectors identified with potential in the District of Vidin, fall under the following codes of economic activity:

- 620 „Activities in the field of information technology “
- 611 „Telecommunication activity via fixed networks “
- 301 „Construction of vessels “
- 251 „‘Production of Metal Products for Construction’ “
- 222 „Production of products of plastics“

County of Călărași

In Călărași, high-tech sectors in the field of information technology and telecommunications stand out. In general, the economic situation of the County is not as good as that of Constanța and the size of the sectors with development potential is significantly smaller. A total of 33 microenterprises are running their business in information technology, and the number of enterprises providing telecommunication services through fixed networks is a total of 24, there is one average - Expertnet SR; the rest are - micro and small.

Among the production sectors with development potential, the Production of general purpose machinery, Production of metal products for construction and Production of plastic products stand out. In Călărași, the largest manufacturer of general purpose machinery is Turbonn Romania SRL, with more than 600 employees as per 2015. Manufacturers of plastic products are micro and small enterprises, and in the manufacture of metal products for construction 29 companies are employed,

2 of them with staff between 50 and 249 people, the other are micro and small ones. Classified as sectors with development potential are the sectors with a code of economic activity:

- 222 „Production of products of plastics“
- 251 „Production of Metal Products for Construction“
- 282 „Production of other general purpose machinery “
- 611 „Telecommunication activity via fixed networks “
- 620 „Activities in the field of information technology “

County of Giurgiu

Giurgiu is a County located on the left bank of the Danube River and its administrative centre is the Town of Giurgiu, which is the main port in the Romanian part of the Danube River. Moreover, its proximity to the capital City of Bucharest provides quick access to the two major airports - Otopeni and Baneasa. The Romanian County is connected to the Bulgarian District of Ruse via the Danube Bridge, which determines that Ruse-Giurgiu is considered as a specific area in the Cross-Border Region and the largest urban community on the Bulgarian-Romanian border. The river transport developed in the District determines the need for the construction of vessels. This is also one of the high-tech sectors identified under the current methodology with development potential, in which five companies are operating, the largest of which is SHIPYARD ATG GIURGIU SRL. Traditionally, the

other sectors with potential are in the field of "High-tech manufacturing", "Production of metal products in construction", "Production of plastic products", i.e. industries, in which small and medium enterprises mainly operate. Also the activities in the information technology sector have a development potential and follow the general trend in the Cross-Border Region. Interestingly, here is the high-tech production of electronic components and PCBs, represented by two large and two medium-sized enterprises, and the largest producer of electronic circuit boards in Giurgiu is Reos Production SRL. The sectors with development potential in Giurgiu, by code of economic activity, are:

- 620 „Activities in the field of information technology “
- 301 „Construction of vessels “
- 261 „Production of electronic components and PCBs “
- 251 „Production of Metal Products for Construction“
- 222 „Production of products of plastics“

County of Teleorman

According to the data from the NSI Romania, the population of the County of Teleorman is mainly employed in the agriculture sector, but in the last two years there has been an outflow of the labour force from the agriculture, at the expense of the manufacturing sector. Not surprisingly, the sectors with development potential fall into the group of high-tech and medium-tech industries, with the exception of IT-related activities. In the County, there is a production of chemicals, represented by several small companies, one large enterprise and one medium. Other sectors with specialization

potential are the Production of other metal products and the Production of general purpose machinery. The Production of electric motors, generators and other appliances for distribution of electricity, which is not very common in the Cross-Border Region, is most impressive, but in Teleorman it is represented by several micro-enterprises and one big company - Electrotel SA, located in the administrative centre of the county - the Town of Alexandria, where nearly 500 employees are working. Sectors with development potential identified in the County of Teleorman, fall under the following codes of economic activity:

- 201 „Production of basic chemicals“
- 259 „Production of other metal products“
- 271 „Production of electric motors, generators and transformers and apparatus for controlling electrical power distribution“
- 281 „Production of general purpose machinery“
- 620 „Activities in the field of information technology“

County of Olt

One of the well-developed economic sectors in the County of Olt is the Metallurgy, in particular the Aluminum processing. There are three industrial zones in the administrative centre of the County - Town of Slatina, one of which is mainly nonaluminum industry enterprises. Because of this, the production of metal products for the construction of metal products of other uses stands out with development potential. In both sectors, there are specialized micro and small enterprises, but the important major manufacturers are decisive in terms of the sector size, namely: Bekaert Slatina SRL

(over 560 employees), Prolyte Products Ro SRL (150 employees), M.T.D. Simplu Construct SRL (about 100 employees).

The County of Olt is the only one where a development potential in the field of Production of parts and accessories for motor vehicles is observed. Two of the largest enterprises in the County - Altur SA, providing jobs for over 600 people and the International automotive components group SRL, with more than 300 employees, are running their businesses in the sector.

This time mainly due to the large number of micro enterprises, another sector with development potential is the Production of plastic products, where 49 companies operate. Sectors with development potential in the County of Olt fall under the following codes of economic activity:

- 222 „Production of products of plastics“
- 251 „Production of Metal Products for Construction“
- 259 „Production of other metal products“
- 293 „Production of parts and accessories for automobiles“
- 620 „Activities in the field of information technology“.

County of Dolj

In the County of Dolj, the trends typical of the entire Cross-Border Region are consolidated. Activities in the field of high-tech branches and medium-high-tech industries are among sectors with development potential. The sector of information technology activities has the greatest development potential - more than 200 micro and small businesses operate in the sector and four companies with more than 100 employees: IT SIX GLOBAL SERVICES SRL, SINTEC MEDIA SRL, NETROM SOFTWARE SRL and CS ROMANIA SA, all of which are located in the County's administrative centre - Craiova. In line with the IT services, development potential also exists in the field of hosting services, data processing and web portals, again the sector's size is determined by the micro enterprises, which are 51 in Dolj. However, the largest employer in the field is COMDATA SERVICE SRL - a company with more than 2,000 employees, founded in 2008, since its inception to date, the average number of employees has increased over 57 times over 9 years.

In the field of medium-high-tech industries, the development potential is distinguished by the Production of plastic products, where the largest employer is CASA NOASTRA SA (with over 1000 employees), the Production of metal products for construction (with dozens of micro and small enterprises, six medium and one large). The high-tech sector for the Production of electric motors, generators and apparatus for controlling and distributing electric power makes an impression. The companies operating in the sector are twenty-five, such as CUMMINS GENERATOR TECHNOLOGIES ROMANIA SA and ELECTROPUTERE SA that are the largest employers in the industry. Although it does not fall within the scope of the sectors with a development potential, it is important to mention that in the County of Dolj, in particular Craiova, there is a Production of cars by the company FORD ROMANIA SA, which provides jobs for more than 2600 people.

In summary, the sectors of development potential identified by this methodology, in the County of Dolj, fall under the following codes of economic activity:

- 620 „Activities in the field of information technology “
- 631 „Data processing, hosting and similar activities; web-portals “;

- 222 „Production of products of plastics“
- 251 „‘Production of Metal Products for Construction’ “
- 271 „Production of electric motors, generators and transformers and apparatus for controlling electrical power distribution“

County of Mehedinți

Due to the weaker economic development in the County of Mehedinți, it is noticeable that the total number of economic units operating in a given sector is relatively small. Therefore, the presence of a medium or large enterprise is predetermining the size of the development potential sectors in the County. Mehedinți is one of the few Counties of the Cross-Border Region, where the information technology sector is not among the high-tech sectors with a development potential. This is dominated by the high-tech and medium-tech manufacturing. The Production of basic chemicals, represented by one medium and one large enterprise stands out among the development potential sectors in Mehedinți and Teleorman, only. Slightly different is the situation in the ‘Production of metal products for construction’, where the sector size is determined by micro, small and medium enterprises. Among high-tech productions with a development potential, the ‘Production of Parts and Accessories for Automobiles’, the ‘Production of Vessels’, and the ‘Production of Locomotives, Motrices and Wagons’ stands out in this County. These three sectors are represented by large enterprises with more than 250 employees. In the field of shipbuilding, the largest enterprise in Orsova (over 330 employees) SEVERNAV SA, SANTIERUL NAVAL ORSOVA SA stand out.

The sectors identified with development potential in the County of Mehedinți are as follows:

- 201 „Production of basic chemicals “
- 251 „‘Production of Metal Products for Construction’ “
- 293 „Production of parts and accessories for automobiles “
- 301 „Construction of vessels “
- 302 „Production of Locomotives, Motrices and Wagons“

In summary, as a result of the analysis of the 15 districts and counties of the Cross-Border Region, the sectors with development potential have been identified and their distribution in the territory of the Cross-Border Region was provisionally presented on the following map.

Distribution of high tech and medium-tech sectors on the territory of the Cross-Border Region between Bulgaria and Romania



Legend:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 201 Manufacture of basic chemicals, fertilisers and nitrogen compounds, plastics and synthetic rubber in primary forms | 282 Manufacture of other general-purpose machinery |
| 221 Manufacture of rubber products | 283 Manufacture of agricultural and forestry machinery |
| 222 Manufacture of plastics products | 289 Manufacture of other special-purpose machinery |
| 251 Manufacture of structural metal products | 293 Manufacture of parts and accessories for motor vehicles |
| 256 Treatment and coating of metals; machining | 301 Building of ships and boats |
| 259 Manufacture of other fabricated metal products | 302 Manufacture of railway locomotives and rolling stock |
| 261 Manufacture of electronic components and boards | 309 Manufacture of transport equipment n.e.c. |
| 266 Manufacture of irradiation, electromedical and electrotherapeutic equipment | 611 Wired telecommunications activities |
| 271 Manufacture of electric motors, generators, transformers and electricity distribution and control apparatus | 620 Computer programming, consultancy and related activities |
| 281 Manufacture of general – purpose machinery | 631 Data processing, hosting and related activities; web portals |
| | 721 Research and experimental development on natural sciences and engineering |

After identifying the high-tech and mid-high-end sectors of development potential and the economic units operating therein, a Quiz Survey was conducted within the Study focused on the management and HR specialists of the organizations. The main objective of the Study was to identify employers' need for skilled labour force, by formulating specific requirements in terms of education, experience, competencies, personal qualities and skills that potential jobseekers should have.

3.2. Analysis of results of the Quiz Survey among companies with development potential in high and medium-high-tech sectors

Following the main objective on the identification of the economic sectors in the Cross-Border Region (high-tech and medium-high-tech) with development potential, it is logical to seek the opinion of organizations in these sectors on the requirements they place towards the jobseekers. The task is to identify the needs for qualified staff in organizations in the Cross-Border Region and its relevant competences.

The Survey was conducted within the 15 Districts and Counties of the Bulgarian and Romanian sides, in the Cross-Border Region. The target group consisted of organizations identified in the sectors with development potential operating in high and medium-high-tech sectors that can provide long-term employment.

Quiz, which was used as a research tool, consisted of nineteen Questions and it was structured in two parts. The first part contained Questions referred to the overall presentation of respondents. The second part contained Questions formulated in implementation of the objectives of this Study.

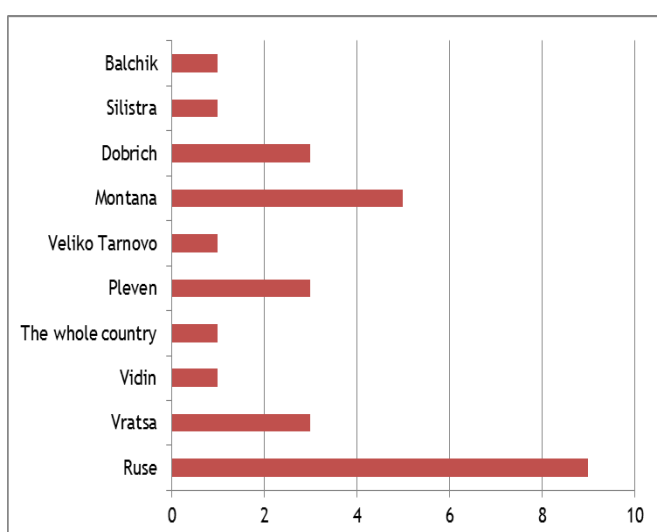
A detailed analysis of the Quiz results follows:

Question 1: Denomination of the organization - Twenty-five organizations from Bulgaria and thirty-one from Romania participated in the Study.

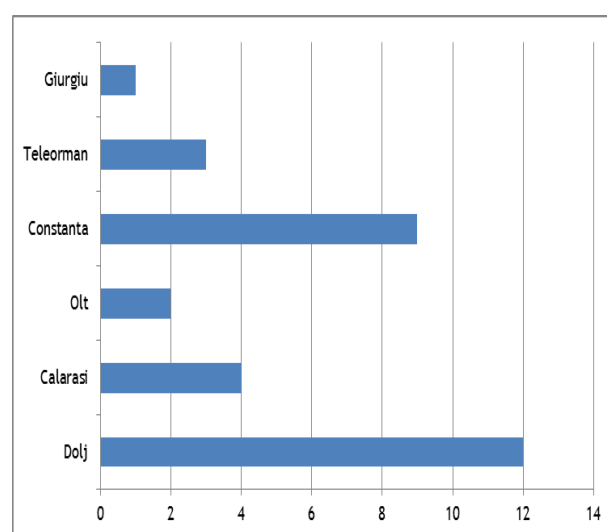
Question 2: Position of the person filling in the Quiz - Executives (Executive Director, Manager, Deputy Manager, Head of Unit) or Human Resources staff have filled in the Quiz.

Question 3: Administrative district of running business?

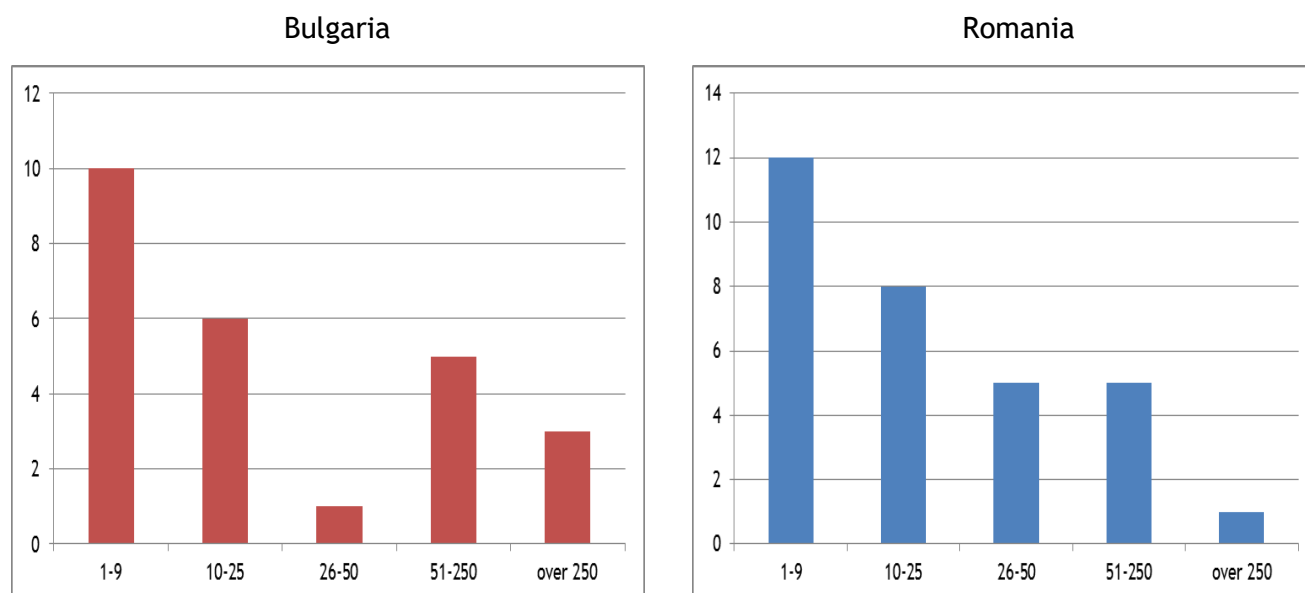
Bulgaria



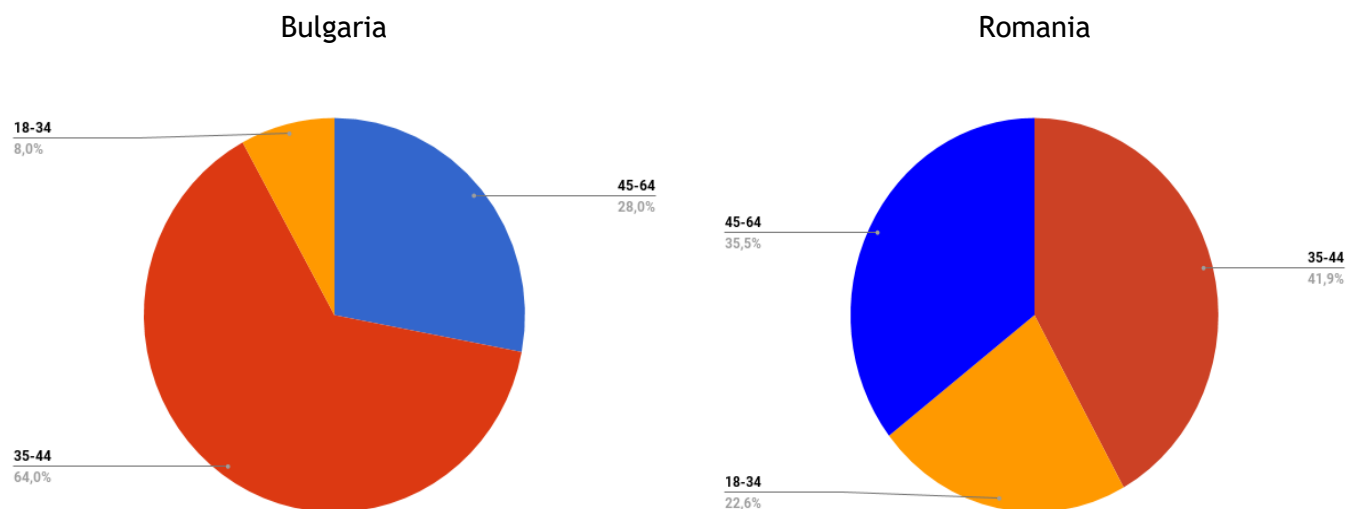
Romania



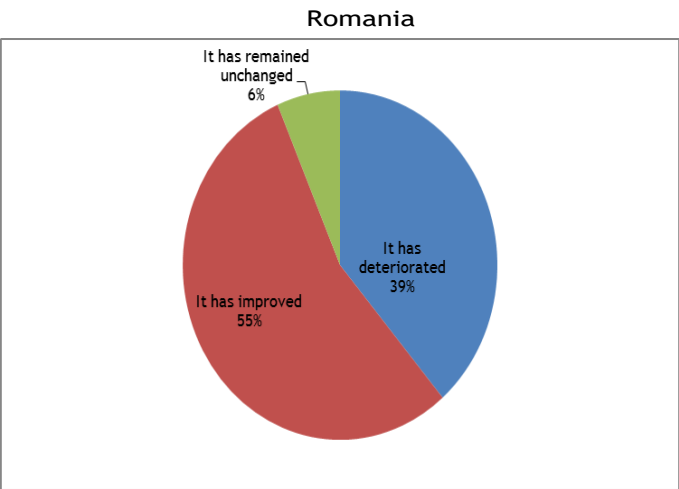
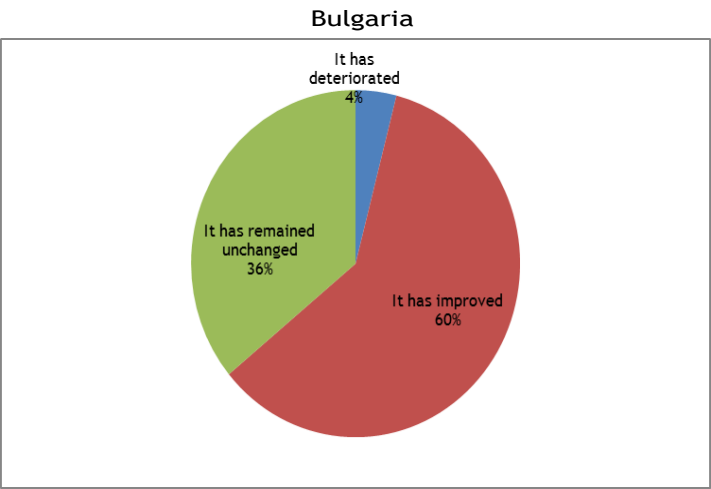
Question 4: How many people are employed in your organization?



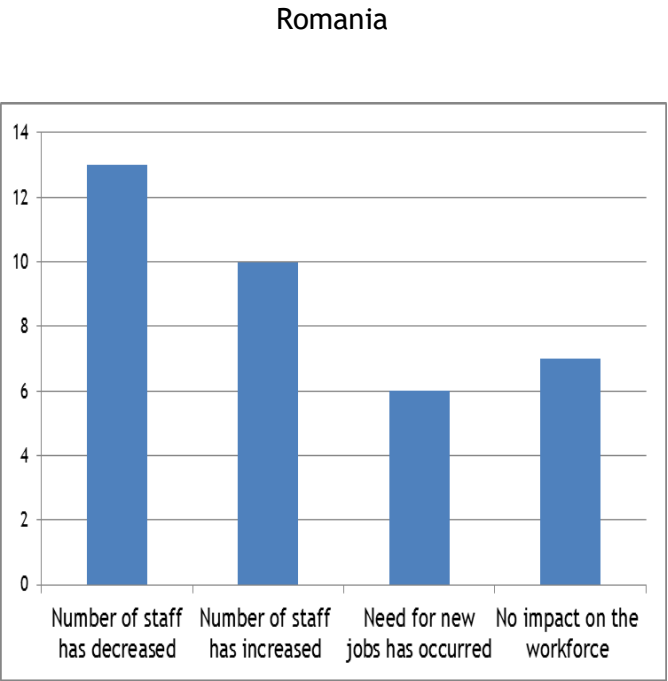
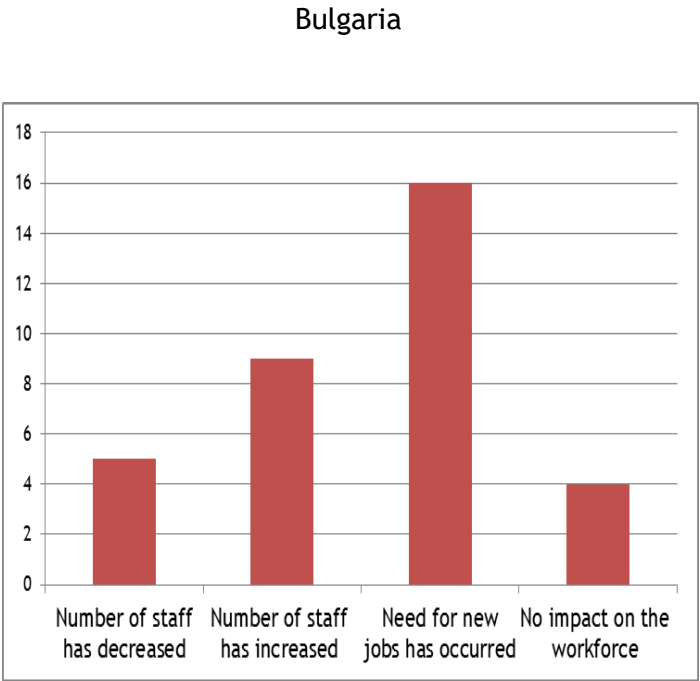
Question 5: What is the average age of employed people?



Question 6: How has the economic standing of your organization changed over the past two years (2015 and 2016)?



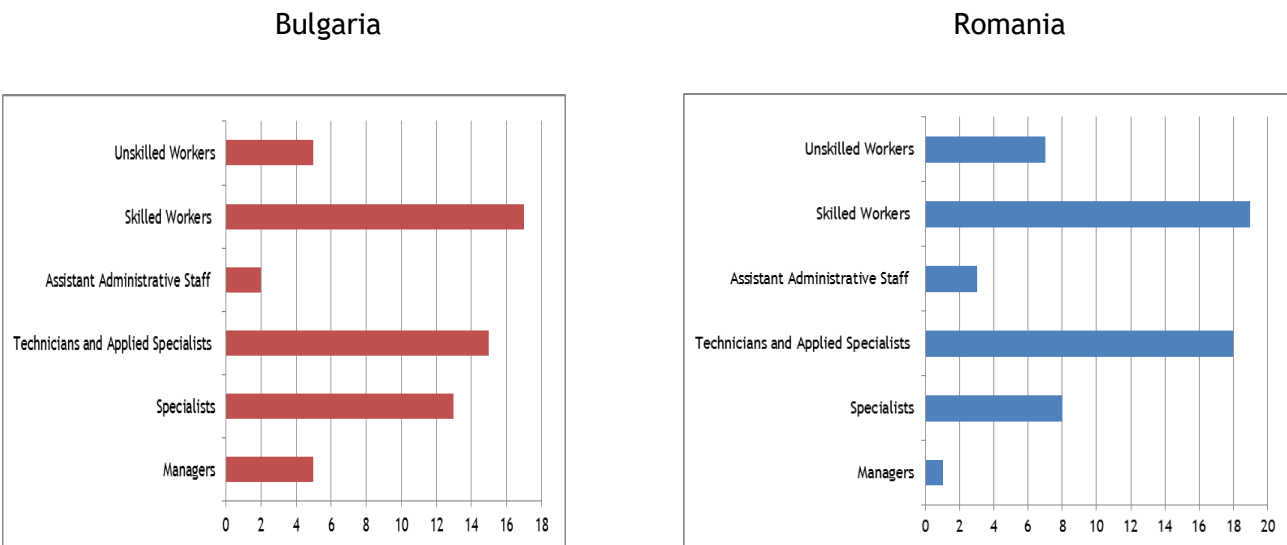
Question 7: How has the change in the economic situation affected the Labour Force in the organization?



Question 8: Which of the positions in your organization have the potential to provide long-term employment (over 1 year)?

Among the organizations surveyed in Bulgaria, it was found that 40% of the respondents could provide long-term employment in the Categories of ‘Staff - technicians, specialists in technical sciences and applied specialists’. Followed by the Category of ‘Skilled workers’ by 24%. For Executives and Support Administrative staff, only 8% of respondents can undertake to provide long-term employment. Unskilled workers rank last. 24% of respondents answered that they could provide long-term employment for all positions in their organization and 8% that they could not provide employment to any category of employees. Among the Romanian organizations surveyed, there is a similar distribution. Again, the groups of technicians, specialists in technical sciences and applied specialists with 45% were ranked first, followed by the skilled workers by 42%. 10% of respondents could provide long-term employment for unskilled workers and only 7% for senior executives. One of the respondent answered that it was able to provide long-term employment for all groups of employees in its organization.

Question 9: In which of these groups, have you experienced difficulty in finding staff?



Question 10: Is your organization operating in the field of R&D?

Only one of the organizations surveyed in the Bulgarian Districts of the Cross-Border Region creates product-technological innovations. In the Romanian Counties of the Cross-Border Region, there are five organizations of the respondent that operate in the field of R&D.

Question 11: If your organization is operating in the field of R&D, please indicate in which groups have you experienced difficulty in finding staff?

One of the Bulgarian organizations surveyed has difficulty in finding staff in all the groups - researchers, technical and auxiliary staff involved in R&D. Two of the Romanian organizations are experiencing difficulties only in the group of researchers, the other two -in the technical staff, and one in both groups - researchers and technical staff.

Question 12: What are the most common problems when recruiting staff?

The main problem faced by the Bulgarian organizations surveyed was the lack of suitable staff in the District. 72% of respondents indicated this answer. 44% believed that the level of training after leaving the education system was an obstacle to staff recruitment, and 36% and 32%, respectively, the lack of motivation of staff to start work or long-term employment. One of the respondents also pointed to a problem regarding the expectations of potential employees for higher remuneration without having the necessary experience. Among the Romanian organizations, the same problems were being observed. First, the lack of suitable staff in the County was ranked by 80.6%, second by 64.5% that the level of education after leaving the education system was unsatisfactory and respectively 32.3% and 29% of respondents considered, that there was no motivation for long-term employment and starting work.

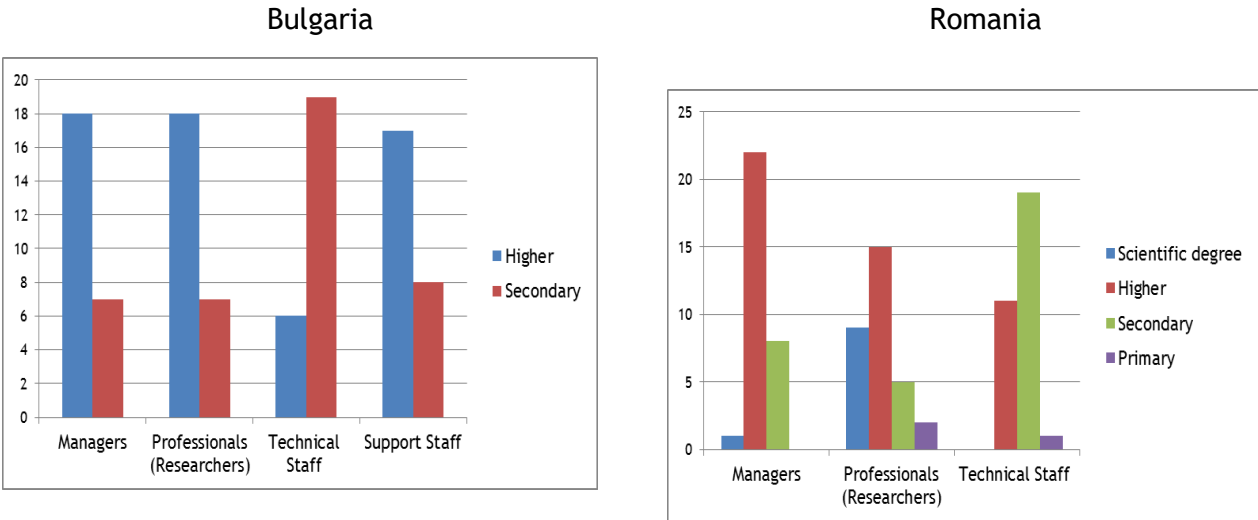
Question 13: Prioritize the importance of competencies to be held by the Employees you seek.



The answers analysis showed that the Bulgarian and Romanian organizations have evaluated the professional qualities of employees (time management skills, teamwork) with the highest score - this answer was indicated by 68% of the Bulgarian employers surveyed and 71% of the Romanian respondents, respectively. By 52%, on the second place, Bulgarian organizations placed personal qualities, good management and care for the resources entrusted. Romanians also ranked these two competences on the second place, by 61%, but they also wanted their employees to have good communication skills. 44% of responding Bulgarian organizations indicated that creative thinking was important, and 52% of Romanians, in addition to the creative thinking they wanted their employees to have a desire for career development and lifelong learning. For 48% of the Bulgarian employers and 42% of the Romanians surveyed, the fluency in foreign languages was assessed as the least

important competence in staff recruiting. The ranking of competences compared to the provided answers is shown in the following graph:

Question 14: What educational degree employees of different groups should have?



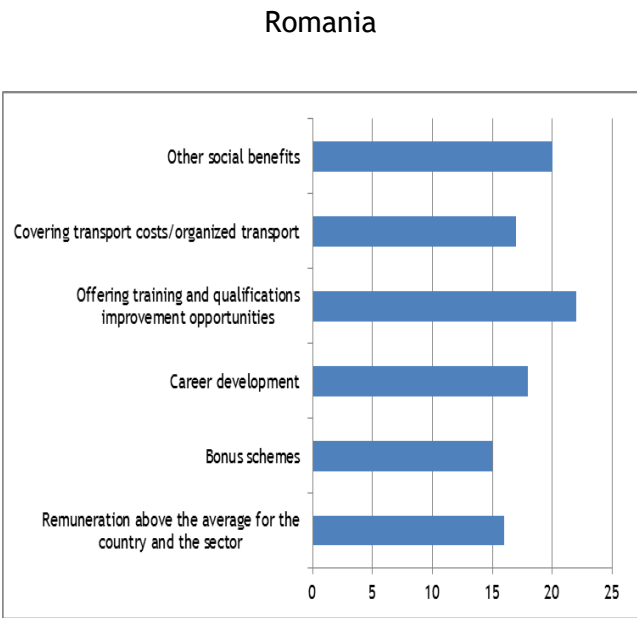
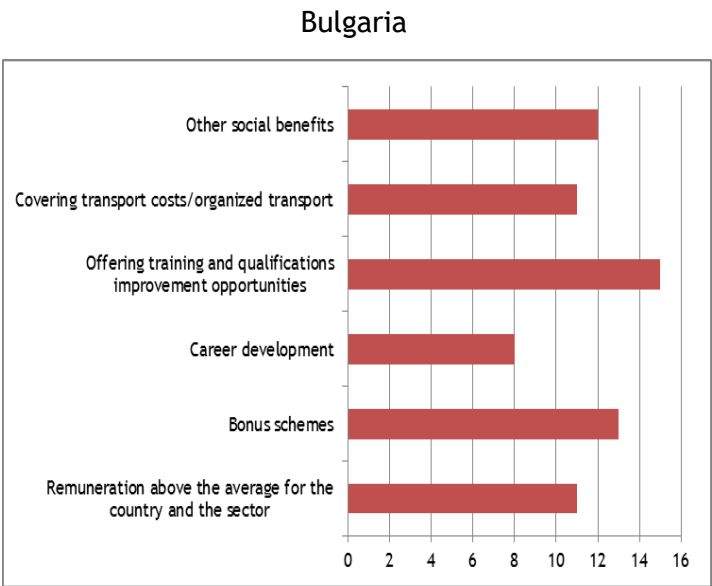
Question 15: What is the field of education the below mentioned groups should have?

The Quiz Survey analysis showed that in Bulgaria and Romania, the organizations surveyed are at the opinion that a Staff of all mentioned groups they would employ should have education in the field of technical sciences. The other field that emerges from the responses of both groups of organizations is the economic science and administration. Romanian employers prefer their employees of the three mentioned groups (employers, technical specialists and technical staff) to have completed their education in the field of informatics. Thereof the Bulgarian organizations surveyed would like the technical staff to have education graduated in the field of extraction and manufacturing technologies.

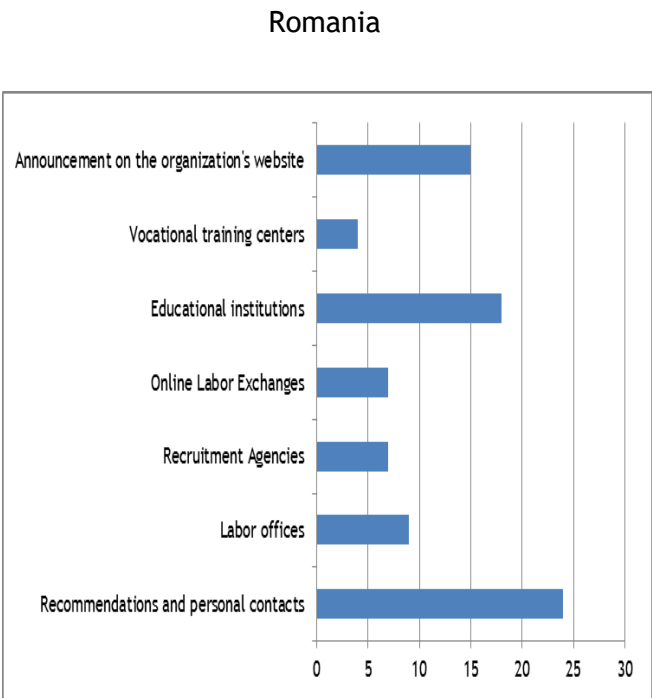
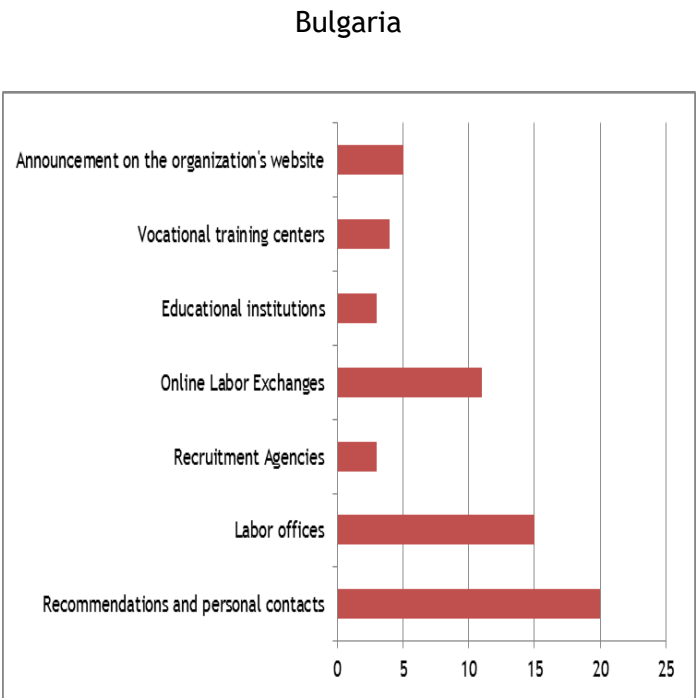
Question 16: Choose the experience needed for starting work by individual groups of employees.



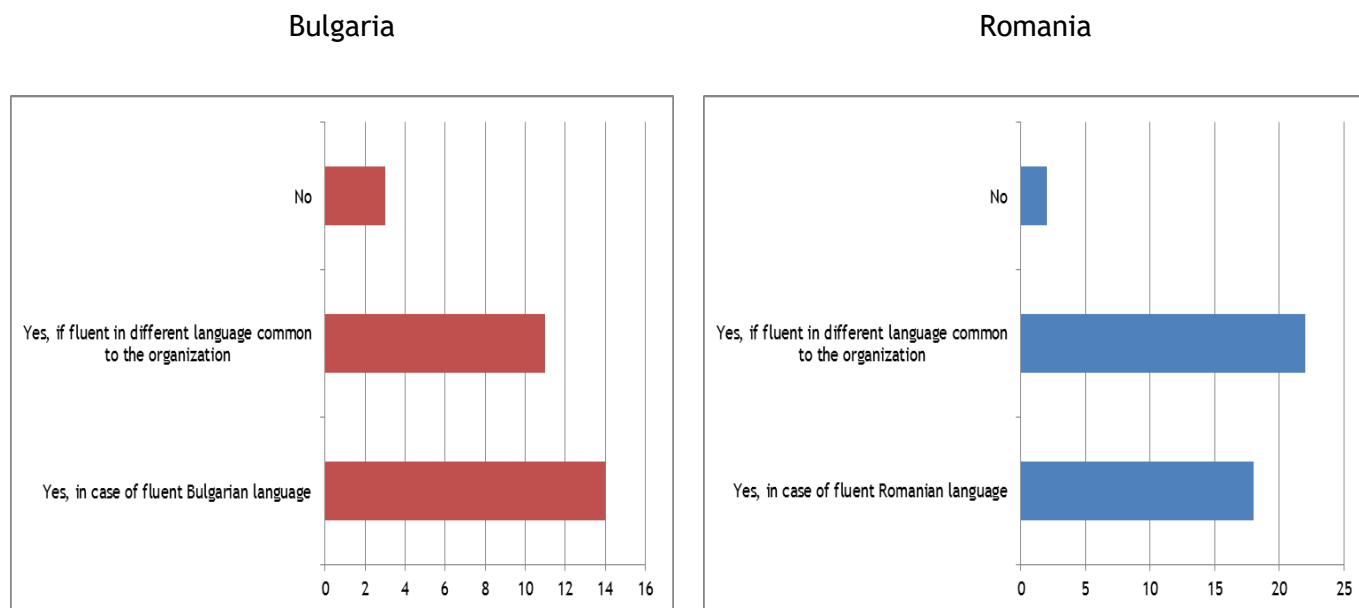
Question 17: What motivation and long-term employment methods do you apply?



Question 18: Which methods of staff recruiting do you use most often?



Question 19: Are you willing to hire an employee from Romania?



As a result of the Study carried out, it was found that employers in the Cross-Border Region running their businesses in high-tech and medium-high-tech sectors, can provide long-term employment for positions requiring knowledge and skills in the field of technical sciences. The greatest need for technicians, technical specialists and skilled workers was taken into consideration. Jobseekers should have between 1 and 3 years of experience, with an exception of managers - the minimum for them was 3 years of experience. Among the most valued skills are the time management skills, teamwork skills, communicative skills, good management and care to the resources entrusted. The share of companies running business in scientific research and development activities is higher in the Romanian part of the Cross-Border Region than the Bulgarian one, and employers find it difficult to recruit employees in all three groups of staff in R & Deployment. The biggest problem in all Districts and Counties is the lack of suitable staff at local level. Organizations use different methods to keep their employees on a long-term basis, mainly by providing opportunities for qualification upgrading, career development and bonus schemes. The most used recruitment method is through personal contacts and recommendations, as the companies from both Bulgarian and Romanian side expressed readiness to hire employees from the neighbouring country.

In summary, the ideal profile of a jobseeker in the high and medium high-tech sectors in the Cross-Border Region is identified as follows:

- higher or secondary education graduated in the field of technical sciences;
- between 1 and 3 years of experience;
- well-developed teamwork skills;
- good time management skills;
- to treat the assets entrusted to him/her with the care of a good owner;
- good communication skills.

V. ACTIVITY 3: Identification and Study of the Labour force; Employment and Unemployment Assessment

1. PLACED OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

In implementation of this Activity, the following objectives have been placed: Identification and Study on the Labour Force, Assessment of Employment and Unemployment on the labour market in the Cross-Border Region.

The concept of 'Labour Force' determines the current economically active population, including those aged 15 and over who are employed in the economy (do work) or are unemployed (offer labour). On the one hand, the economic and demographic characteristics of the region affect the labour force and, on the other, the personal attitudes and skills of each individual. The effects of the labour force and employers on the labour market determine the levels of employment and unemployment.

As noted herein above in this Report, a large part of the cross-border areas is classified as the poorest across Europe, which is a prerequisite for a number of economic, demographic and social problems. Deteriorated living conditions also influence the psychological attitudes of individuals to seek fulfilment on other labour markets or to implement the so-called Labour Force Mobility. One of the types of mobility is the cross-border mobility, which means that an individual travels to his/her place of work positioned in another country without changing his/her residence. Typically, the trip takes place at weekly or two-weekly intervals.

By clarifying the concepts subject to this Study, the following tasks have been fulfilled:

- Information from official sources of data in Bulgaria and Romania on the factors influencing the labour market and the characteristics of the labour force has been collected, processed and analyzed;
- Study among the Labour Force and employers on their attitudes towards the cross-border mobility has been conducted.

Employers, which fall within the target audience, are the same as those stated in Activity 2. They are relevant in terms of the fact that they run their business activities in sectors with development potential and are ranked among the major employers in the cross-border labour market.

The activities listed are described in detail and carried out according to the written methodology introduced in the next Section.

The main expectation of the Study is to outline and systematize any trends observed in terms of employment, unemployment, attitudes to labour mobility, and population activity in the targeted cross-border region.

2. IMPLEMENTATION METHODOLOGY THE ACTIVITY

The purpose of this methodology is to analyse and summarize the Study results regarding the state of the population and the labour force, as well as the trends in the labour market in the cross-border region, including 7 County in Romania and 8 Districts in Bulgaria.

The characteristics of the labour force and labour market are considered in the context of the economic development indicators of the region and the demographic characteristics of the population. A Quiz was conducted to explore the attitudes towards the cross-border mobility.

The Study passed through the following stages:

- Identification of the main indicators defining the labour market;
- Selection of sources of information on identified indicators. Selection is based on maximizing the reliability and accuracy of the data to be used in labour force analysis.
- Use of statistical data and analysis.
- Conducting a labour force survey and employers in the cross-border region Bulgaria-Romania identified as a result of the implementation of Activity 2.
- Analysis and conclusions based on the Study results.

The Methods used for this Study are:

- quantitative method of collecting database;
- qualitative method of collecting information based on the Quiz answers collected of the population in the cross-border area;
- analysis, synthesis and aggregation of collected information.

Sources of information used are:

- National Statistical Institutes of Bulgaria and Romania;
- Eurostat;
- Employment Agency of the Republic of Bulgaria.

To ensure comparability of the data analysis the timeframe from 2013 to 2015 was used. For those indicators for which no data was available over the indicated period, only data available for the period 2013-2014 were tracked. Information for the Year 2016 was used, where possible and appropriate.

Limitations:

In the implementation of the activities, limitations were associated with the different types of information provided by the statistical institutes of the two countries, the different definitions, the lack of information in the selected year subject to the Study, significantly limited information by regions at NUTS 3 level.

3. RESULT

3.1. Study on the Labour Force

3.1.1. Macroeconomic Development - Main Economic Factors Affecting the Labour Market

Table: Gross domestic product in Bulgaria by statistical regions and Districts in million BGN

Country, Region/District	Year	2013	2014	2015
Bulgaria		82166.09	83634.32	88571.32
Severozapaden region		5805.29	5954.56	6013.09
Vidin		570.92	572.69	577.57
Vratsa		1513.24	1682.88	1615.25
Montana		971.77	933.05	1005.22
Pleven		1743.58	1734.50	1786.95
Severozentralen region		6720.37	6979.94	7078.30
Veliko Tarnovo		1968.88	1953.67	2042.08
Ruse		2062.07	2217.31	2246.88
Silistra		655.22	675.01	676.07
Severozentralen region		8953.59	9327.35	9654.75
Dobrich		1445.12	1438.09	1454.05

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Figure : Movement of GDP relative shares by Districts vs. GDP in Bulgaria

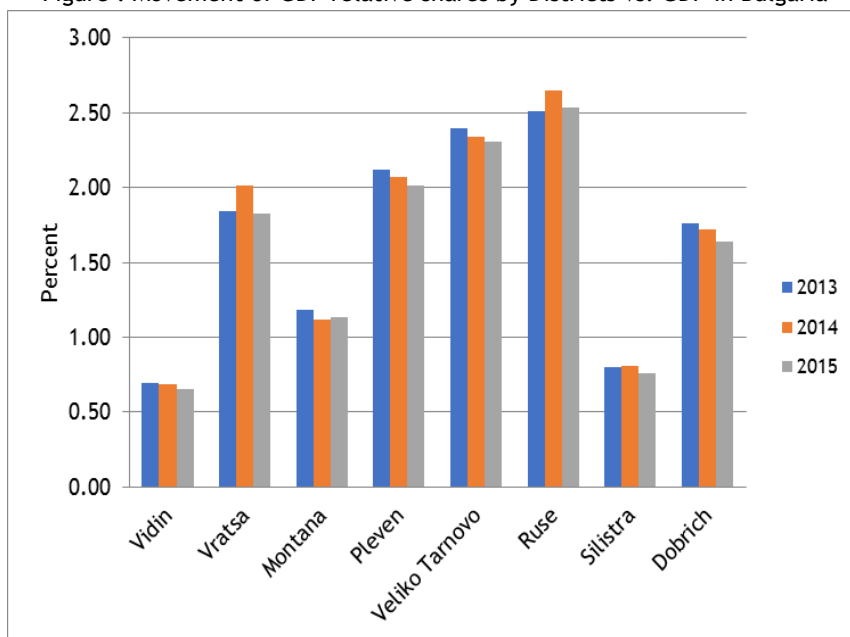
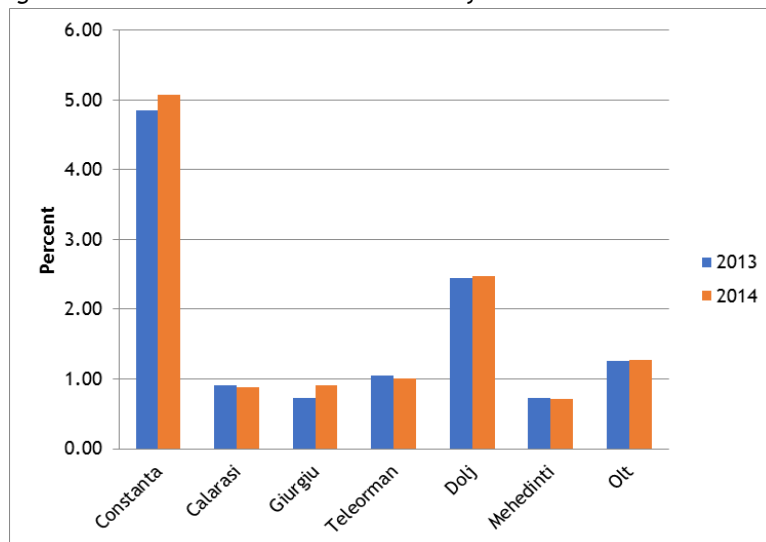


Table : Gross domestic product in Romania by statistical regions and Counties in million RON

Country, Region, County	Year	2013	2014
Romania		637,456.00	668,143.60
South-east region		72,153.70	75,239.30
Constanta		30,908.00	33,901.50
South-Muntenia region		77,804.30	86,814.70
Calarasi		5,776.80	5,845.40
Giurgiu		4,617.20	6,027.80
Teleorman		6,669.70	6,704.60
South-west Oltenia		48,013.10	48,340.00
Dolj		15,636.40	16,563.30
Mehedinti		4,653.60	4,748.30
Olt		8,064.00	8,459.50

Source: NSI Romania

Figure : Movement of GDP relative shares by Districts vs. GDP in Romania



The amount of GDP generated in the Romanian part of the cross-border region is almost three times higher than that generated in the regions of Bulgaria - 18,512 mln EUR, in 2014 vs. 5,730 mln EUR in the Bulgarian cross-border regions. The relative share of GDP generated on both sides of the Danube River, in terms of GDP of the national economies of the two countries, is roughly the same, with a slight prevalence of the Bulgarian part of the region. In 2014, the GDP in the Bulgarian cross-border Districts forms 13.4% of Bulgaria's GDP and that of the Romanian counties - 12.3%. Compared to the previous year, there was an increase in the relative share of the GDP generated in both countries compared to the national GDP. In both regions, the growth rate of GDP is higher than the growth of the national GDP, and this indicator is 2.52% for the Bulgarian Districts at 1.79% for the country as a whole and for the Romanian counties it is 7.19% vs. 4.23% in total for Romania. According to the data available for Bulgaria, this trend was also observed in 2015.

The Districts of Ruse and Veliko Tarnovo have the largest share of GDP in the Bulgarian region, respectively - 19.8% and 17.4%, and the lowest is in Vidin, Silistra and Montana respectively - 5.11%, 6.02 % and 8.32%.

There are two among the Romanian Counties that generate over 60% of the GDP in total in the entire cross-border region of Romania - Constanța by 41.22% and Dolj by 20.19%. There is also a small share of the County of Olt - 10.26%. The County of Mehedinți generates the smallest share of GDP-5.79%, followed by Călărași -7.09% and Giurgiu - 7.32%.

The County of Constanța stands out in terms of the absolute amount of GDP, generating 7,630 million Euros, which is 1,900 million Euros more than the GDP in all areas of the Bulgarian part of the cross-border region. It is noteworthy, that the most developed Bulgarian District of Ruse, in absolute value, generates a GDP in the amount of 1134 ml million n EUR commensurate with the generated amount of 1071 million Euro by the least developed County of Mehedinți on the Romanian side. Over the period 2013-2014 there is a trend of growth in the absolute amount of GDP generated in the two regions as a whole.

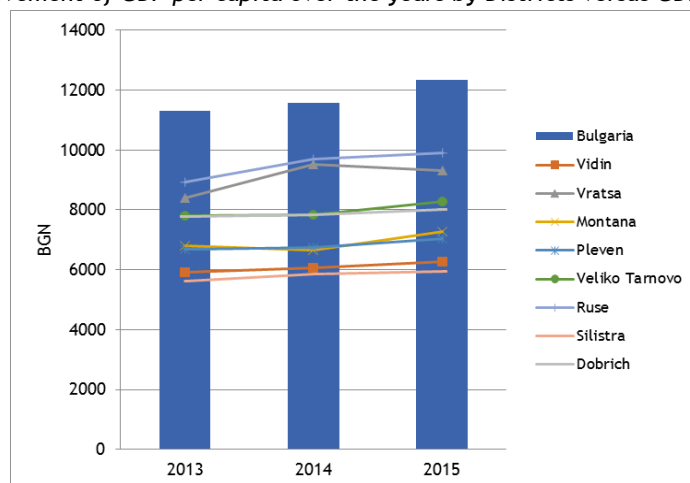
A decrease was registered in 2 Counties on the Romanian side - Giurgiu and Teleorman and three Districts on the Bulgarian side - Montana, Pleven and Veliko Tarnovo. According to the data available for Bulgaria in 2015, this trend changed, with a decrease in GDP compared to 2014 in only one District - Vratsa.

Table : Gross domestic product per capita in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in BGN

Country, Region, District	Year	2013	2014	2015
Bulgaria		11310	11577	12339
Severozapaden region		7106	7408	7606
Vidin		5916	6066	6258
Vratsa		8408	9520	9305
Montana		6813	6642	7270
Pleven		6676	6734	7039
Severen tsentralen region		7999	8403	8627
Veliko Tarnovo		7802	7832	8288
Ruse		8939	9694	9912
Silistra		5618	5852	5933
Severoiztorchen region		9366	9795	10193
Dobrich		7788	7827	8002

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Figure : Movement of GDP per capita over the years by Districts versus GDP in Bulgaria



Generated GDP per capita varies between the different administrative units. The District of Ruse show the highest GDP per capita in the Bulgarian Districts - 5000 EUR, with an average indicator for Bulgaria - 5900 EUR. An analysis carried out by Districts show that the GDP per capita is significantly lower than the country average, with the lowest in the District of Silistra - 3000 EUR, almost twice lower than the national average. The values of this indicator are also low in the Districts of Vidin, Montana, Pleven - EUR 3100, EUR 3400 and EUR 3400, respectively. The District of Montana is the only administrative unit on both sides of the Danube, which experienced a decrease in GDP per capita in 2014 - by EUR 100 compared to 2013. In 2015, this trend was overcome, as the GDP per capita increased by 300 EUR. By contrast, in the District of Vratsa, which ranks second by this indicator among the Bulgarian Districts in 2015, there was a decrease of 200 EUR and from 4900 EUR in 2014, GDP per capita in 2015 was already 4700 EUR.

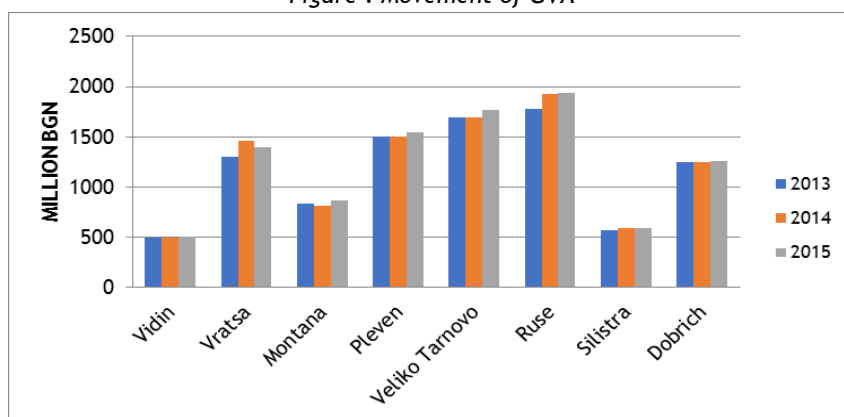
In the Romanian part of the cross-border region, the largest GDP per capita is generated in the County of Constanța - 11,200 EUR, by 3600 EUR more than the average indicator for Romania, followed by the County of Dolj - 5800 EUR. In 2014, compared to the previous 2013, the GDP per capita increased in all Counties, with an exception of Teleorman, where the same level was preserved. For all the Counties, with an exception of Constanța, there is a typical lower growth rate than the average for Romania of EUR 7600. There are no major differences in the Bulgarian and Romanian parts of the cross-border region.

Table : Gross value added in Bulgaria by statistical regions and districts in million BGN

Country, Region, District	Year	2013	2014	2015
Bulgaria		70771	72610	76546
Severozapaden region		5000	5170	5197
Vidin		492	497	499
Vratsa		1303	1461	1396
Montana		837	810	869
Pleven		1502	1506	1544
Severen tsentralen region		5788	6060	6117
Veliko Tarnovo		1696	1696	1765
Ruse		1776	1925	1942
Silistra		564	586	584
Severoiztochen region		7712	8098	8344
Dobrich		1245	1249	1257

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Figure : Movement of GVA



The dependencies and trends in GVA follow those of the GDP. Absolute value of Added Value generated for the Bulgarian Districts of the cross-border region amounted to 4 974.9 million Euros in 2014 vs. 16 380.25 million Euros in the Romanian Counties, or the Romanian Counties generate 3.3 times the added value of the Bulgarian Districts. As a percentage of the national values by the same

indicator, the Bulgarian Districts generate 13.4% of Bulgaria's GVA and the Romanian Counties - 12.31%. For both countries there was an increase in relative shares. The County of Constanța has the largest contribution to the national economy in terms of GVA for Romania -5.07% and for Bulgaria - the District of Ruse by 2.65%. The lowest share in the national economies is by Mehedinți (0.71%), Călărași (0.87%) and Giurgiu (0.9%) - for Romania and Silistra (0.81%), Montana (1.12%) and Dobrich (1.72%) - for Bulgaria.

The analysis carried out by different territorial units in the cross-border region show that the Districts of Ruse (19.78%) and Veliko Tarnovo (17.43%) have the largest share and the Districts of Vidin 5.11%) and Silistra (6.02%) have the smallest share in the GVA among the cross-border region in Bulgaria. In Romania, the Counties of Constanța (41.2%) and Dolj (20.2%) have the largest share of GVA and the smallest - Mehedinți (5.78%) and Călărași (7.09%).

Also, by this indicator, the County of Constanța is a leader among all the cross-border territorial units, with a total amount of GVA generated in 2014 almost 1.4 times larger than the GVA generated in all the Bulgarian Districts of the cross-border region. Both Counties, Constanța and Dolj, form 61.41% of the GVA of all the Romanian Counties of the region.

Trends in both the Bulgarian and the Romanian part of the cross-border region showed an increase of GVA in 2014 compared to 2013. Both the absolute value and the relative share of GVA for the country have increased.

According to the data for Bulgaria in 2015, the absolute GVA for the region was increasing, but the relative share of GVA in Bulgaria as a whole was decreasing from 13.4% in 2014 to 12.88% in 2015. The conclusion is that the development of the region is slower than the country average.

Table : Foreign Direct Investment in Bulgaria as of December 31st by statistical Regions and Counties cumulatively in '000 EUR

Country, Region, District	Year	2013	2014	2015
Bulgaria		23339733	21581580	23163273
Severozapaden region		700969	664722	620795
Vidin		59324	51686	77842
Vratsa		157668	138053	85676
Montana		38094	34218	27355
Pleven		311089	306765	282479
Severen tsentralen region		879943	905312	876758
Veliko Tarnovo		89566	108176	121708
Ruse		372823	385755	337023
Silistra		33472	31667	28803
Severoiztochen region		2041480	2093917	2271914
Dobrich		299945	111566	202894

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Foreign Direct Investment and Expenditure on Acquisition of Tangible Fixed Assets are significant factors determining the economic development potential in a given region.

Data on Foreign Direct Investment in Bulgaria show that the share of foreign investment in the Districts of the cross-border region in 2015 is very low - 5.02% compared to the investments in the whole country. Looking at the trend for the period from 2013 to 2015, it appears that their size is steadily decreasing in both absolute and relative terms. In 2015, they decreased by 198201.1 thousand EUR compared to 2014 as their relative share in foreign investment for the whole country decreased by 0.82% in 2015 compared to the previous one.

In 2015, the largest size of Investment was in the District of Ruse, with a relative share of 29% compared to other Districts of the cross-border region. The share of the District of Pleven was also relatively high - 24.27%. Compared to other Districts in the region, the smallest size of Foreign Investment was in the Districts of Montana (2.35%) and Silistra (2.47%).

In 2014, the size of Foreign Investment declined, compared to the previous year, in almost all areas except in the Districts of Veliko Tarnovo and Ruse. The increase for Veliko Tarnovo was almost by 20.78%. In 2015, in most of the Districts again there was a decrease, with the exception of Dobrich, Vidin and Veliko Tarnovo. The highest decrease was in the District of Vratsa - almost 38% compared to the previous year.

Table : Expenditure on the acquisition of TFA in Bulgaria by statistical regions and Districts in '000 BGN

Country, Region, District	Year	2013	2014	2015
Bulgaria		18089215	20123833	21191026
Severozapaden region		1090610	1174282	1519315
Vidin		66755	87319	158093
Vratsa		292518	380498	320229
Montana		153622	140311	240820
Pleven		422544	379410	498247
Severen tsentralen region		1356104	1503219	1770600
Veliko Tarnovo		397597	384392	500926
Ruse		440017	466452	500056
Silistra		176278	165673	252705
Severoiztochen region		2067581	1980140	2554872
Dobrich		380718	372252	389972

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Gross investment in TFA in Romania by statistical regions and Counties of in million RON

Country, Region, County	Year	2013	2014	2015
Romania		108334	106247	122024
South-east		11414	9293	9303
Constanta		6130	4480	4464
South Muntenia		10845	10724	10319
Calarasi		397	453	426
Giurgiu		565	557	564
Teleorman		837	894	881
South-west Oltenia		5753	6185	6684
Dolj		2207	1984	2225
Mehedinti		203	247	347
Olt		1291	1490	1635

Source: NSI Romania

Expenditure of Tangible Fixed Assets in all Bulgarian cross-border areas amounted to 13.5% of TFA in Bulgaria (2015) and for the period 2013-2015 their overall trend was to increase. Their size was the largest and most similar in the Districts of Veliko Tarnovo, Ruse and Pleven, and the lowest in Vidin and Montana. A lasting trend of increase over the three years was tracked in the District of Ruse only.

In the Romanian Counties of the cross-border region, the total amount of TFA compared to the country as a whole was 8.64% in 2015, characterized by a sustained downward trend for the period 2013-2015. Of all the counties of the region, the largest size of TFA was in the Counties of Constanta, Dolj and Olt. A lasting trend of increase was established in two Counties - Mehedinti and Olt only. In Constanța, the largest County of the cross-border region, there was a sustained decrease in Expenditure of Tangible Fixed Assets. In 2015, compared to the 2014, the highest increase in the Expenditure of FTA was in Mehedinti (40.49%). A significant increase was also observed in Dolj and Olt.

3.1.2. Demography and social development

3.1.2.1. Demographic Development of Population

Table : Population as per December 31st in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in number of people

Country, Region, District	Year	2013	2014	2015
Bulgaria		7245677	7202198	7153784
Severozapaden region		810401	797142	783909
Vidin		95467	93361	91235
Vratsa		178395	175169	172007
Montana		141596	139350	137188
Pleven		259363	255749	251986
Severen tsentralen region		835813	825536	815441
Veliko Tarnovo		251126	247782	245006
Ruse		229784	227685	225674
Silistra		116038	114670	113248
Severoiztochen region		954536	949957	944458
Dobrich		184680	182808	180601

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Local population as per January 1st in Romania by statistical regions and Counties in number of people

Country, Region, County	Year	2013	2014	2015
Romania		20020074	19953089	19875542
South-east		2523354	2509803	2492582
Constanta		684458	684392	683329
South Muntenia		3108150	3085723	3061759
Calarasi		303881	301326	298763
Giurgiu		281989	278473	276664
Teleorman		372203	367239	361615
South-west Oltenia		2048702	2033784	2015792
Dolj		654456	650767	646620
Mehedinti		261670	259026	256011
Olt		428160	423445	418463

Source: NSI Romania

Table : Population by Place of residence in Bulgaria by Districts in number of people

Country, District	Year	2013		2014		2015	
		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Bulgaria		5291675	1954002	5267480	1934718	5227182	1926602
Vidin		61198	34269	60118	33243	58087	33148
Vratsa		105300	73095	103192	71977	99435	72572
Montana		91026	50570	89572	49778	87012	50176
Pleven		172945	86418	170763	84986	167220	84766
Veliko Tarnovo		175473	75653	173327	74455	171215	73791
Ruse		177475	52309	176298	51387	174653	51021
Silistra		52118	63920	51429	63241	50306	62942
Dobrich		127645	57035	126256	56552	124214	56387

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Population by Place of residence in Romania by statistical regions and Counties in number of people

Country, County	Year	2013		2014		2015	
		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Romania		10790541	9229533	10752617	9200472	10703051	9172491
South-east		1347797	1175557	1339333	1170470	1328597	1163985
Constanta		469456	215002	468121	216271	466297	217032
South Muntenia		1227308	1880842	1219436	1866287	1210133	1851626
Calarasi		109509	194372	108643	192683	107771	190992
Giurgiu		81200	200789	81052	197421	80645	196019
Teleorman		119418	252785	118553	248686	116916	244699
South-west Oltenia		939644	1109058	936575	1097209	929177	1086615
Dolj		338320	316136	337643	313124	335558	311062
Mehedinti		120213	141457	119873	139153	118461	137550
Olt		165894	262266	164912	258533	163423	255040

Source: NSI Romania

On the territory of the cross-border Counties in Romania, 2 941 465 people (2015) live, which accounts for 14.8% of the country's total population. The largest number of population of the Romanian part is located in Constanta and Dolj. 23.23% and 21.98% respectively of the population of the entire Romanian cross-border region live therein. It is noteworthy, that the rural population is more numerous than the urban population, with a share of 52.78%. This indicator is higher than the average for the country by 6.63%. This ratio is typical for most of the counties in the cross-border region, except for Constanta and Dolj. The largest share of rural population is in Giurgiu - 70.5%. In another three Counties, its share is over 60% - Teleorman (67.67%), Calarasi (63.93%) and Olt (60.95%).

Over the period from 2013 to 2015, there was a steady downward trend in the total number of population of all the Counties. The rate of decline has also increased - from 0.74% in 2014 to 0.78% in 2015 compared to the previous year. The largest population decline is in the Counties with a more numerous rural population - Teleorman, Mehedinti and Olt. The downward trend was retained in 2016.

1 416 945 people or 19.81% of the population of Bulgaria live in the Bulgarian part of the cross-border region.

In 2015, the most numerous population was in the Districts of Pleven by 17.78%, Veliko Tarnovo - 17.29% and Ruse by 15.93% of the population of the region.

The ratio between rural and urban populations was contrary to what was typical of Romania, as there are 65.79% urban and 34.21% rural population who live in the Bulgarian Districts.

This trend is observed for all the Districts, with the exception of the District of Silistra, where the rural population is 55.58%.

The largest relative share of the urban population is in the Districts of Ruse (77.39%), Veliko Tarnovo (69.88%) and Dobrich (68.78%).

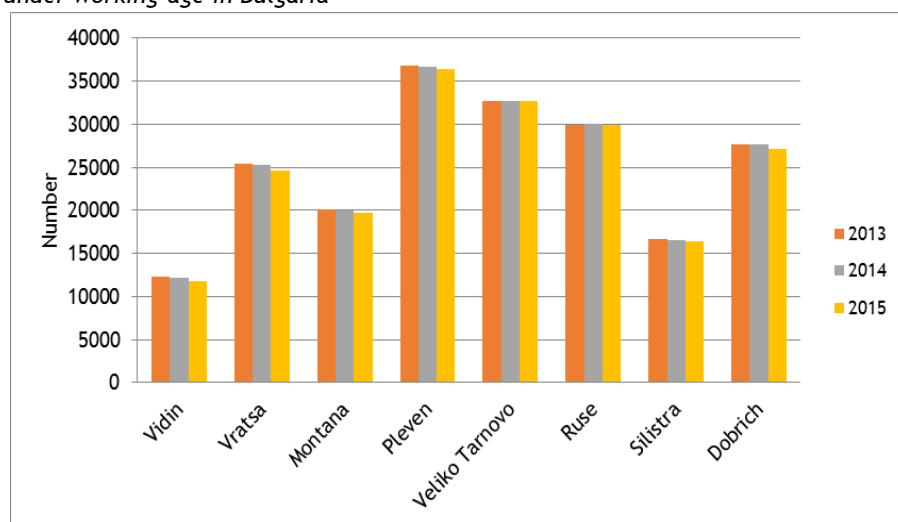
A decrease in the total number of population in the region and respectively by Districts is also characteristic for the Bulgarian part of the cross-border region. The rate of decline is higher than in the Romanian region, rising from 1.36% in 2014 to 1.37% in 2015 compared to the previous year. The most rapid population decrease is in the Districts of Vidin, Vratsa and Montana. In 2016, downwards trends across the region remain, as well.

Table : Population under, at, above working-age in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in number of people

Country, District	Year	Population under working age ¹			Population at working age			Population over working age		
		2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
Bulgaria		1055804	1064735	1063930	4471633	4403374	4349105	1718240	1734089	1740749
Vidin		12346	12164	11793	52238	50634	49373	30883	30563	30069
Vratsa		25472	25237	24646	105268	102505	100334	47655	47427	47027
Montana		20066	19971	19688	80107	78153	76702	41423	41226	40798
Pleven		36756	36720	36386	148605	145096	142081	74002	73933	73519
Veliko Tarnovo		32687	32728	32638	153567	150013	147231	64872	65041	65137
Ruse		29889	30082	29905	140374	137771	135941	59521	59832	59828
Silistra		16615	16597	16388	69183	67619	66359	30240	30454	30501
Dobrich		27719	27637	27192	112927	110647	108770	44034	44524	44639

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Figure : Population under working-age in Bulgaria



¹ The working age for the period between 2013 – 2015 is 16-60 years old for women and 16-63 years old for men.

Figure : Population at working-age in Bulgaria

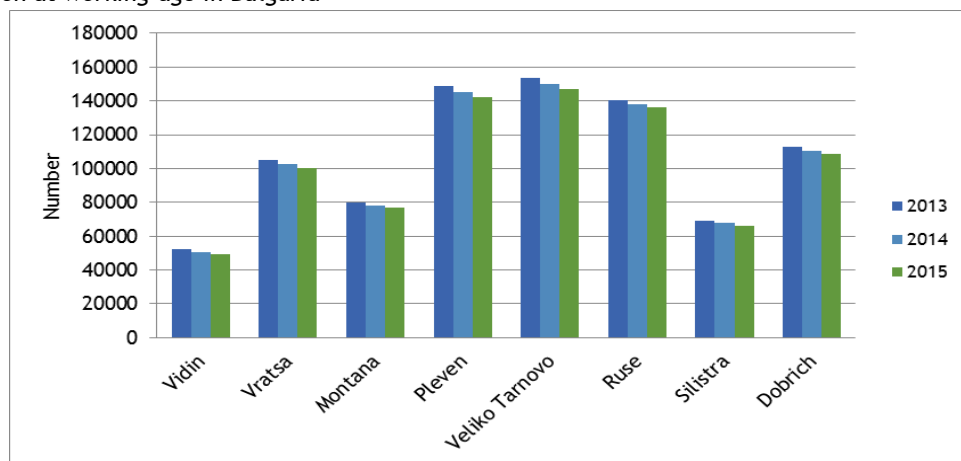


Figure : Population over working-age in Bulgaria

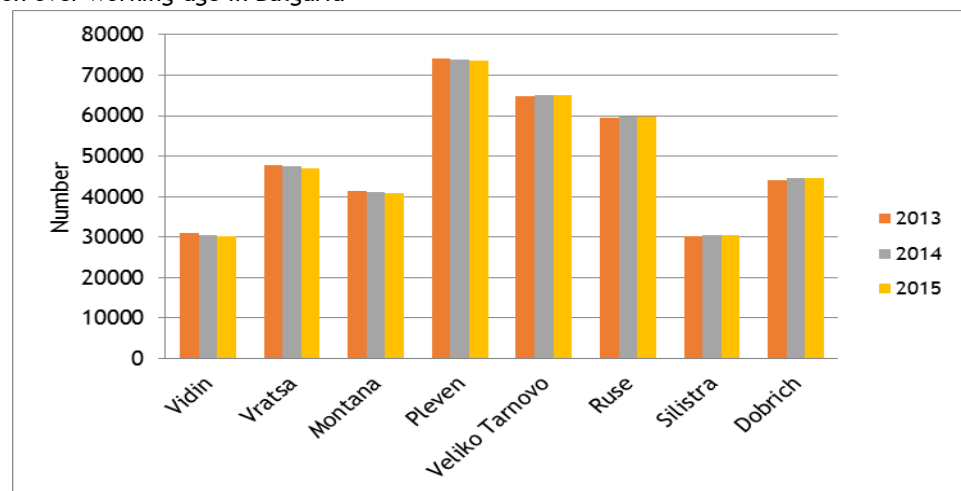


Figure : Population under, at, over working-age in Bulgaria , in percentage in 2015

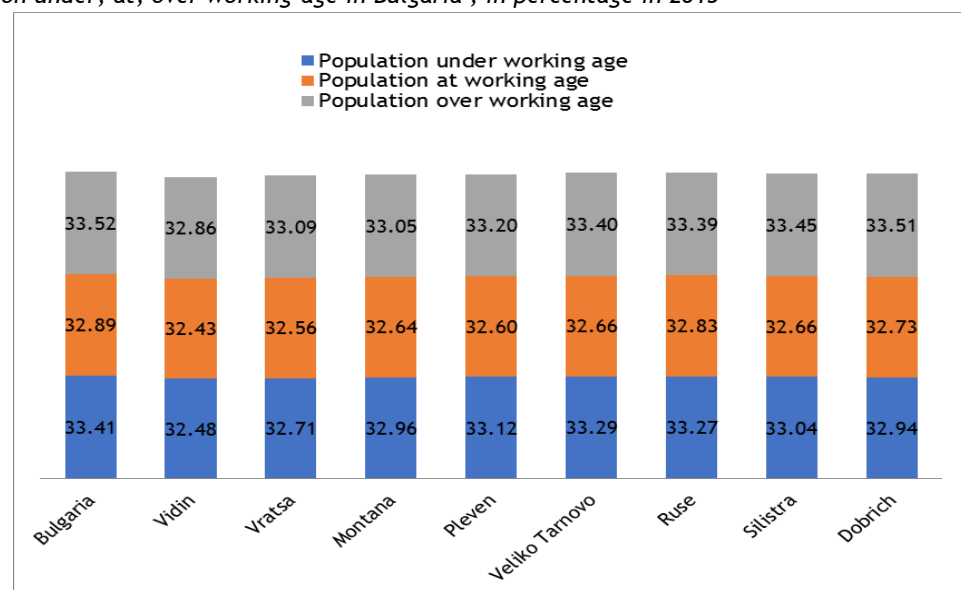


Table : Population under, at, above working-age in Romania by statistical regions and Counties in number of people

Country, County	Year	Population under working age ²			Population at working age			Population over working age		
		2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
Romania		3356634	3320438	3305450	12701244	12619064	12480935	3962196	4013587	4089157
Constanta		116684	116462	116526	447439	444260	438575	120335	123670	128228
Calarasi		55341	54431	53573	182294	180754	178328	66246	66141	66862
Giurgiu		46986	46012	45344	170146	168053	166648	64857	64408	64672
Teleorman		55401	53842	52756	212978	209776	205135	103824	103621	103724
Dolj		101603	100060	99150	412733	409864	405673	140120	140843	141797
Mehedinti		42222	41150	40268	162879	160885	158174	56569	56991	57569
Olt		67310	65071	63162	263803	260961	257111	97047	97413	98190

Source: NSI Romania and own calculations

Figure : Population under working-age in Romania

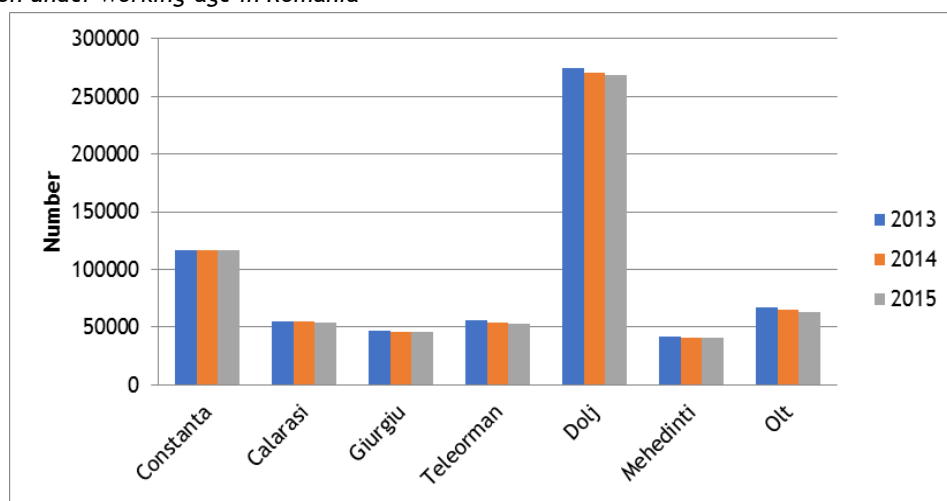
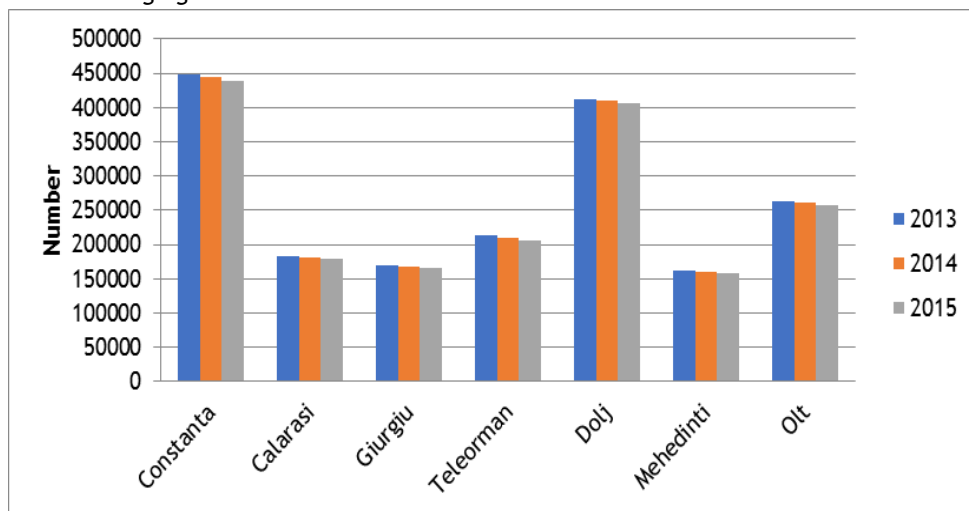


Figure : Population at working-age in Romania



² The working age for the period between 2011-2015 is 16-59 years old for women and 16- 64 years for man.

Figure : Population over working-age in Romania

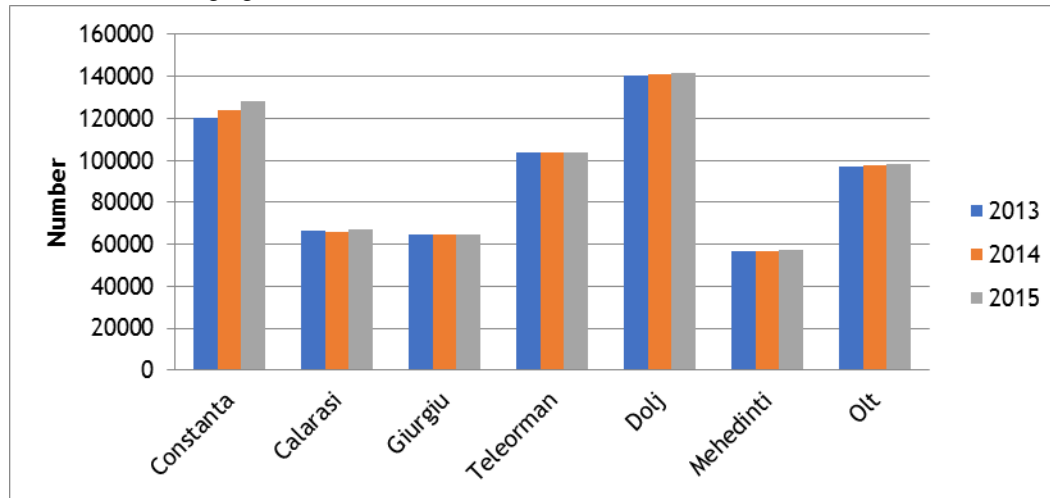
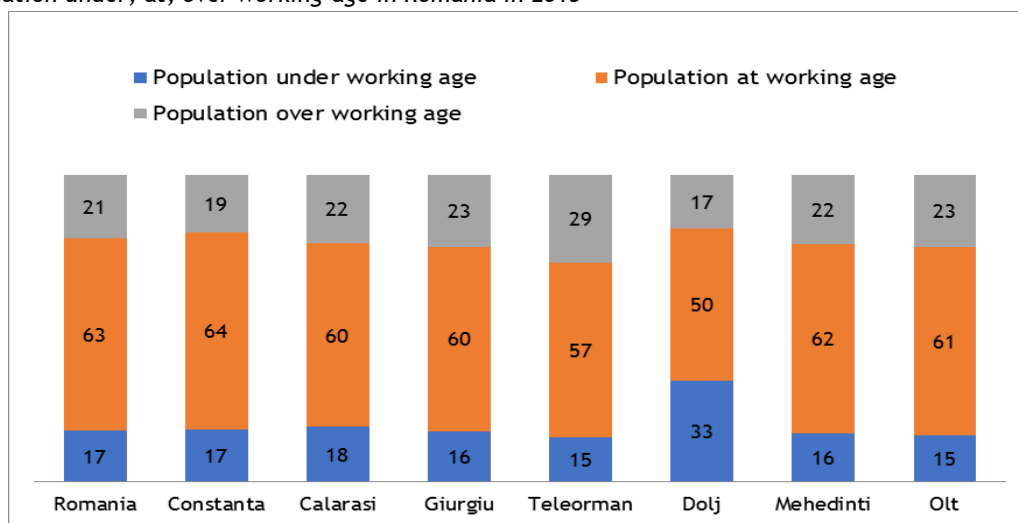


Figure : Population under, at, over working-age in Romania in 2015



In 2015, 1 809 644 people of working age live on the territory of the cross-border region in Romania, i.e. 14% of the country's working population.

The analysis carried out by Counties show that the share of the working population in Constanța and Dolj is the largest compared to the other two groups, respectively 64.18% and 62.74%. This indicator is better for Constanța than the average for the country by 1.38%. The lowest share of the working population is in Teleorman (56.72%) and Călărași (59.69%). For the period subject to consideration, the relative share of the working population is declining in all the Counties. By contrast, the proportion of the above-working-age population is increasing. In 2015, compared to the previous year, the population under-working-age in all the Counties is decreasing, with the exception of Constanta, where there was a slight increase of 0.04%.

Almost the same trends are observed in the territory of the cross-border region in Bulgaria. In 2015, 19% of the working population of Bulgaria, or 826 791 people live therein. In all the Bulgarian Districts, the relative share of the working-age population is lower than the average for the country

(60.79%). The most favourable ratio is in the District of Ruse - 60.24%, followed by Dobrich (60.23%) and Veliko Tarnovo (60.09%). The indicator was the most unfavourable in the District of Vidin, 54.12%. A change over the period 2013-2015 show that the relative share of the working-age population in all areas is decreasing, at the expense of an increase in the population at above-working age. The fact that in 2015 the population under-working-age, in half of the Districts in the region, albeit with very small values, is increasing compared to the previous year, is positive. Growth occurred in the Districts of Veliko Tarnovo (0.11%), Pleven (0.08%), Ruse (0.04%) and Montana (0.02%).

In general, the situation is similar on both sides of the Danube River. The relative share of working population is more favourable in Romania, and the trends of growth in the population under-working-age are better in the Bulgarian Districts.

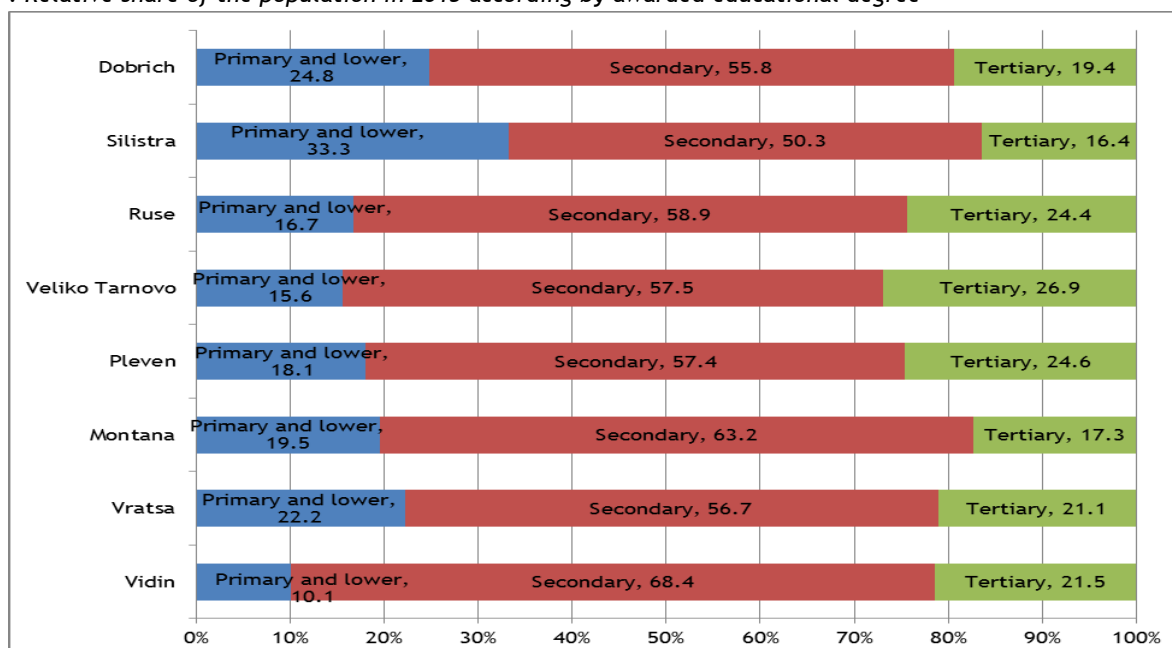
3.1.2.2. Education and training

Table: Relative share of working-age population by education in Bulgaria by Districts and by Degrees of completed education in percentage

Country, District	Year	2013			2014			2015		
	Educational attainment	Basic and below	Secondary	Tertiary	Basic and below	Secondary	Tertiary	Basic and below	Secondary	Tertiary
Bulgaria		18.2	56.3	25.6	18.9	54.1	27.0	18.1	54.4	27.5
Vidin		12.0	73.3	14.6	11.2	71.6	17.2	10.1	68.4	21.5
Vratsa		17.9	61.6	20.4	20.4	57.5	22.1	22.2	56.7	21.1
Montana		15.6	66.0	18.4	18.6	64.3	17.1	19.5	63.2	17.3
Pleven		16.6	60.6	22.9	18.8	57.6	23.6	18.1	57.4	24.6
Veliko Tarnovo		14.6	58.9	26.6	16.6	56.1	27.3	15.6	57.5	26.9
Ruse		19.1	57.3	23.6	19.6	56.8	23.6	16.7	58.9	24.4
Silistra		32.4	52.5	15.1	32.5	53.1	14.4	33.3	50.3	16.4
Dobrich		23.4	58.2	18.4	25.5	56.1	18.4	24.8	55.8	19.4

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Figure : Relative share of the population in 2015 according by awarded educational degree



The educational structure of population in the Bulgarian Districts of the cross-border region show that the relative share of the population aged 25-64 with higher education is steadily increasing over the reference period. In 2015, the highest share of graduates was in the Districts of Veliko Tarnovo - 26,9%, Pleven - 24,6% and Ruse - 24,4%. This is understandable considering the fact that higher education institutions are located in these Districts.

At the same time, in many of the Districts, the number of population with primary and lower education within the same age group is increasing. There is an increase in 2015 compared to 2013 in the Districts of Vratsa, Montana, Pleven, Silistra and Dobrich. This indicator is the most unfavourable for the District of Silistra - 33.3%, which is 15.2% above the national average.

In some of the Districts, although the relative share of population with secondary education is above the national average, there is a steady decrease over the period 2013-2015 - Vidin, Vratsa, Pleven and Dobrich. This trend is also typical for the District of Silistra, which is the only one in the cross-border region with a value of this indicator below the national average by 4.1%

Table : Students at higher schools in Bulgaria, by statistical regions and Districts in number of people

Country District	Year	2012/2013			2013/2014			2014/2015		
	Tertiary schools	Total	Universities and specialized higher education institutions	Colleges	Total	Universities and specialized higher education institutions	Colleges	Total	Universities and specialized higher education institutions	Colleges
Bulgaria		278588	263900	14688	277239	262167	15072	272336	257092	15244
Severozapaden region		2460	1934	526	2853	2264	589	2904	2261	643
Vidin		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vratsa		605	605	-	661	661	-	774	774	-
Montana		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pleven		1678	1329	349	1980	1603	377	1892	1487	405
Severen tsentralen region		44766	44728	38	43701	43701	-	43588	43588	-
Veliko Tarnovo		27856	27818	38	27090	27090	-	27020	27020	-
Ruse		10297	10297	-	9819	9819	-	9498	9498	-
Silistra		421	421	-	449	449	-	507	507	-
Severoiztochen region		41565	39275	2290	40352	37918	2434	39164	36813	2351
Dobrich		1149	-	1149	1093	-	1093	890	-	890

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Students at higher schools in Romania by statistical regions and Counties in number of people

Country, Region, County	Year	2014	2015
Romania		541,653.00	535,218.00
South-east		40,516.00	40,052.00
Constanta		24,111.00	23,692.00
South Muntenia		24,540.00	23,562.00
Calarasi		349.00	341.00
Giurgiu		634.00	623.00
Teleorman		29,345.00	28,204.00
South-west Oltenia		22,087.00	21,687.00
Dolj		1,744.00	1,680.00
Mehedinti		453.00	522.00
Olt		8,064.00	8,459.50

Source: NSI Romania

The number of students in the Bulgarian Districts of the cross-border region is determined by the presence of higher education institutions and colleges. No students are registered on the territory of two Districts - Vidin and Montana - due to the lack of similar kind of educational establishments. In the rest of the Districts, there are higher education institutions, their affiliates or colleges, which determine respectively the presence of students.

In total, 15% of the Bulgarian students are studying in the region as a whole, 98.81% of them are studying at universities and 3.19% in colleges.

The District of Veliko Tarnovo is identified as the largest university centre, where 27020 students have studied during the 2014-2015 academic year, or 66.58% of all students in the cross-border region. 23.41% of students have studied in the District of Ruse and 4.66% in Pleven. In the rest of the Towns, there are mainly branches of educational establishments or colleges and their relative share is comparatively lower. Over the period 2013-2015, there is a downward trend in the number of students, with an exception of Silistra and Vratsa, and partly in Pleven, which show an increase for the 2013/2014 school year and a decrease in the next school year.

In 2015, in the Romanian part of the territory of the cross-border region, there were 48 545 students studying in the region as well as in other areas of Romania. They form 9.09% of all students in the country. 48,80% of which were from the County of Constanța and 44,67% from the County of Dolj. The lowest share of students is in the Counties of Călărași -0.71% and Olt -0.92%.

3.1.3. Labour force, persons other than Labour force and Economic activity

Table : Labour Force, employed persons, unemployed persons and persons other than Labour Force aged at 15 and over in Bulgaria, by statistical Regions and Counties, in thousand people

Country, Region, District	Year	2013				2014				2015			
		Labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Inactive population	Labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Inactive population	Labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Inactive population
Bulgaria		3371.2	2934.9	436.3	2883.3	3365.9	2981.4	384.5	2850.8	3337.0	3031.9	305.1	2834.9
Severozapaden region		330.7	284.4	46.3	377.1	326.1	279.7	46.4	369.6	318.9	280.4	38.5	365.9
Vidin		40.8	33.6	7.2	43.9	41.3	32.1	9.1	41.6	40.9	33.2	7.7	40.3
Vratsa		72.0	61.3	10.7	83.7	73.7	60.4	13.3	79.0	68.4	56.4	12.1	81.9
Montana		57.8	48.1	9.7	65.6	59.4	49.7	9.7	61.9	51.1	46.9	4.2	68.4
Pleven		110.2	96.8	13.4	115.8	103.9	94.6	9.3	118.6	109.2	99.2	10.0	110.0
Severozentralen region		371.0	314.1	56.9	363.0	367.4	318.9	48.5	358.1	366.8	327.9	38.9	349.1
Veliko Tarnovo		113.1	94.8	18.3	107.8	115.0	101.5	13.5	103.4	114.9	107.1	7.9	100.1
Ruse		102.1	89.4	12.7	100.2	96.9	86.4	10.4	103.5	99.0	90.1	8.9	99.3
Silistra		47.5	37.4	10.1	53.2	49.3	38.2	11.1	50.3	47.0	36.8	10.2	51.4
Severozentralen region		445.0	370.1	74.9	370.7	445.4	389.1	56.3	367.4	452.2	405.8	46.4	356.5
Dobrich		89.4	75.2	14.1	69.9	89.4	76.7	12.8	68.1	86.9	74.9	12.0	69.2

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Labour Force, employed persons, unemployed persons and persons other than Labour Force at working-age in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Counties in th. people

Country, Region, District	Year	2013				2014				2015			
		Labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Inactive	Labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Inactive	Labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Inactive
Bulgaria		3322.7	2889.4	433.2	1536.5	3308.7	2927.4	381.3	1486.9	3276.0	2973.5	302.5	1450.6
Severozapaden region		326.3	280.4	45.9	187.4	320.7	275.1	45.6	179.1	311.1	273.4	37.7	176.5
Vidin		39.9	32.9	7.0	19.2	40.5	31.5	9.0	16.5	40.0	32.5	7.4	15.3
Vratsa		71.3	60.7	10.7	45.1	72.9	59.9	13.0	40.2	67.4	55.5	11.8	43.1
Montana		56.8	47.2	9.6	32.2	58.2	48.5	9.7	28.6	49.6	45.6	4.1	35.2
Pleven		108.8	95.5	13.3	55.7	102.2	93.1	9.1	58.2	105.7	95.8	9.9	50.8
Severozentralen region		365.0	308.5	56.5	190.7	360.9	312.6	48.3	183.4	359.8	321.2	38.6	172.3
Veliko Tarnovo		110.1	92.1	17.9	57.9	112.1	98.7	13.4	52.5	112.3	104.6	7.7	48.5
Ruse		101.4	88.7	12.7	52.2	95.9	85.4	10.4	55.1	97.7	88.9	8.8	50.5
Silistra		47.0	36.9	10.1	29.6	48.4	37.5	11.0	26.5	46.2	36.0	10.2	27.0
Severozentralen region		439.0	364.6	74.3	206.4	437.5	381.7	55.7	200.5	443.8	397.8	46.0	186.2
Dobrich		87.8	73.8	14.0	36.4	87.0	74.5	12.5	34.7	84.7	72.8	11.9	34.8

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Labour Force, employed persons, unemployed persons and persons other than Labour Force at working-age in Romania by statistical regions and Counties of in th. people

Country, Region, County	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Labour force	Employed	Unemployed
Romania		13997.9	8530.6	512.3	12597.7	8431.7	478.3	12481.1	8340.6	436.2
South-east		1842.6	1003.9	72.0	1566.2	986.8	72.7	1542.7	969.0	68.9
Constanta		491.1	295.1	13.5	448.8	291.6	12.0	443.2	289.2	10.9
South Muntenia		2068.8	1168.8	94.7	1899.4	1146.5	89.8	1875.4	1117.7	79.3
Calarasi		194.8	98.8	8.8	181.8	95.8	8.6	179.4	91.8	7.2
Giurgiu		177.1	87.9	5.8	170.9	86.6	6.5	169.6	82.0	5.7
Teleorman		234.9	154.3	18.7	209.4	150.1	18.9	205.8	140.6	18.5
South-west Oltenia		1431.7	832.0	79.1	1260.6	813.8	72.8	1244.1	787.7	70.4
Dolj		447.8	262.7	28.2	410.8	257.3	26.8	406.7	248.8	26.2
Mehedinti		186.6	105.3	12.3	160.0	103.2	11.5	157.5	99.3	12.2
Olt		292.4	163.5	14.5	259.2	160.8	14.4	254.6	154.6	13.7

Source: NSI Romania

Table : Labour Force aged 15 and over by sex in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in th. people

Country, Region, District	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Labour force	Men	Women	Labour force	Men	Women	Labour force	Men	Women
Bulgaria		3371.2	1796.6	1574.6	3365.9	1798.6	1567.3	3337.0	1781.7	1555.2
Severozapaden region		330.7	178.7	151.9	326.1	174.0	152.1	318.9	171.8	147.2
Vidin		40.8	22.5	18.3	41.3	22.7	18.6	40.9	22.0	18.9
Vratsa		72.0	39.2	32.8	73.7	40.4	33.3	68.4	37.5	31.0
Montana		57.8	32.0	25.7	59.4	31.4	28.0	51.1	27.6	23.5
Pleven		110.2	59.4	50.8	103.9	54.5	49.4	109.2	58.3	50.9
Severen tsentralen region		371.0	202.2	168.7	367.4	201.8	165.6	366.8	199.4	167.4
Veliko Tarnovo		113.1	60.7	52.5	115.0	61.0	53.9	114.9	62.2	52.7
Ruse		102.1	54.5	47.6	96.9	52.1	44.8	99.0	51.2	47.7
Silistra		47.5	28.1	19.4	49.3	29.1	20.2	47.0	27.0	20.0
Severoiztochen region		445.0	241.5	203.5	445.4	242.6	202.8	452.2	247.1	205.1
Dobrich		89.4	48.8	40.5	89.4	48.5	41.0	86.9	47.6	39.3

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Labour Force at working-age in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in th. people

Country, Region, District	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Labour force	Men	Women	Labour force	Men	Women	Labour force	Men	Women
Bulgaria		3322.7	1766.2	1556.5	3308.7	1763.1	1545.6	3276.0	1744.2	1531.8
Severozapaden region		326.3	176.2	150.1	320.7	170.7	150.1	311.1	166.6	144.6
Vidin		39.9	22.0	17.9	40.5	22.3	18.2	40.0	21.4	18.6
Vratsa		71.3	38.7	32.6	72.9	40.0	33.0	67.4	36.8	30.6
Montana		56.8	31.6	25.2	58.2	30.8	27.5	49.6	26.7	22.9
Pleven		108.8	58.5	50.3	102.2	53.5	48.7	105.7	56.0	49.7
Severen tsentralen region		365.0	198.2	166.8	360.9	197.6	163.2	359.8	194.5	165.3
Veliko Tarnovo		110.1	58.6	51.5	112.1	59.4	52.7	112.3	60.5	51.8
Ruse		101.4	54.0	47.4	95.9	51.3	44.6	97.7	50.2	47.5
Silistra		47.0	27.9	19.1	48.4	28.7	19.7	46.2	26.5	19.7
Severoiztochen region		439.0	237.5	201.5	437.5	237.5	199.9	443.8	242.2	201.6
Dobrich		87.8	47.8	40.0	87.0	46.8	40.2	84.7	46.1	38.6

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Labour Force at working-age in Romania by statistical regions and Counties of in th. people

Country, Region, County	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Labour force	Men	Women	Labour force	Men	Women	Labour force	Men	Women
Romania		13997.9	7223.1	6774.8	12597.7	6603.4	5994.3	12481.1	6536.5	5944.6
South-east		1842.6	955.3	887.3	1566.2	830.1	736.1	1542.7	816.8	725.9
Constanta		491.1	250.6	240.5	448.8	233.8	215.0	443.2	230.5	212.7
South Muntenia		2068.8	1076.3	992.5	1899.4	1007.2	892.2	1875.4	994.8	880.6
Calarasi		194.8	101.7	93.1	181.8	96.3	85.5	179.4	95.0	84.4
Giurgiu		177.1	92.8	84.3	170.9	91.2	79.7	169.6	90.9	78.7
Teleorman		234.9	124.9	110.0	209.4	113.3	96.1	205.8	111.5	94.3
South-west Oltenia		1431.7	744.8	686.9	1260.6	667.2	593.4	1244.1	657.8	586.3
Dolj		447.8	230.4	217.4	410.8	216.2	194.6	406.7	213.7	193.0
Mehedinti		186.6	97.8	88.8	160.0	85.3	74.7	157.5	84.1	73.4
Olt		292.4	153.4	139.0	259.2	138.2	121.0	254.6	135.6	119.0

Source: NSI Romania

Table : Economic activity rate of the population aged 15 and over in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts as a percentage

Country, Region, District	Year	2013	2014	2015
Bulgaria		53.9	54.1	54.1
Severozapaden region		46.7	46.9	46.6
Vidin		48.2	49.8	50.3
Vratsa		46.2	48.3	45.5
Montana		46.8	49.0	42.8
Pleven		48.8	46.7	49.8
Severen tsentralen region		50.5	50.6	51.2
Veliko Tarnovo		51.2	52.7	53.4
Ruse		50.5	48.3	49.9
Silistra		47.2	49.5	47.8
Severoiztochen region		54.6	54.8	55.9
Dobrich		56.1	56.8	55.7

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Economic activity rate of working-age population in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts as a percentage

Country, Region, District	Year	2013	2014	2015
Bulgaria		68.4	69.0	69.3
Severozapaden region		63.5	64.2	63.8
Vidin		67.5	71.0	72.3
Vratsa		61.3	64.4	61.0
Montana		63.8	67.1	58.5
Pleven		66.1	63.7	67.5
Severen tsentralen region		65.7	66.3	67.6
Veliko Tarnovo		65.5	68.1	69.8
Ruse		66.0	63.5	65.9
Silistra		61.4	64.7	63.1
Severoiztochen region		68.0	68.6	70.4
Dobrich		70.7	71.5	70.8

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Figure : Movement of Economic activity rate in Bulgaria

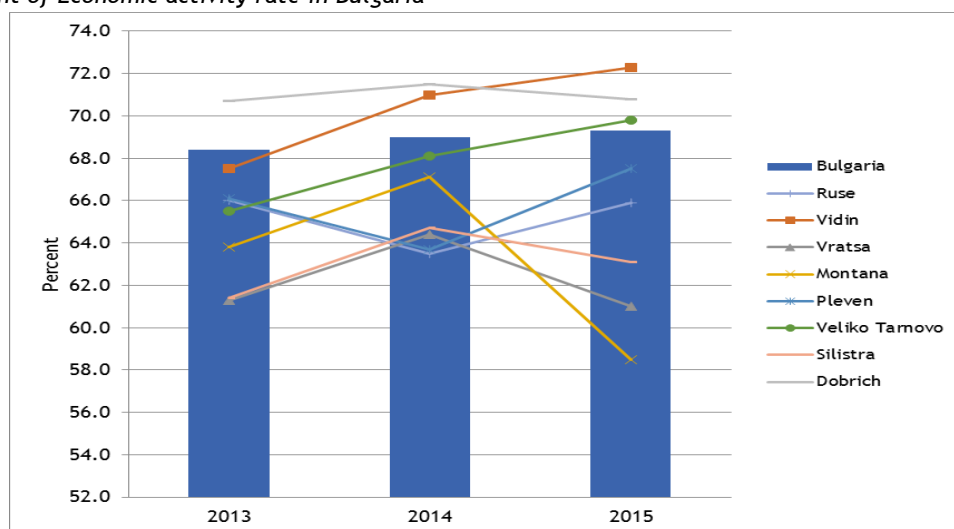


Table : Economic activity rate of working-age population in Romania by statistical regions and Counties as a percentage

Country, Region, County	Year	2013	2014	2015
Romania		65	71	70
South-east		58.4	63	67.3
Constanta		63	68	68
South Muntenia		61	60	64
Calarasi		55	57	55
Giurgiu		53	55	52
Teleorman		73.6	80.7	77.4
South-west Oltenia		64	65	69
Dolj		65	69	68
Mehedinti		63	72	71
Olt		60.9	67.6	66.1

Source: NSI Romania

Figure : Movement of Economic activity rate in Romania

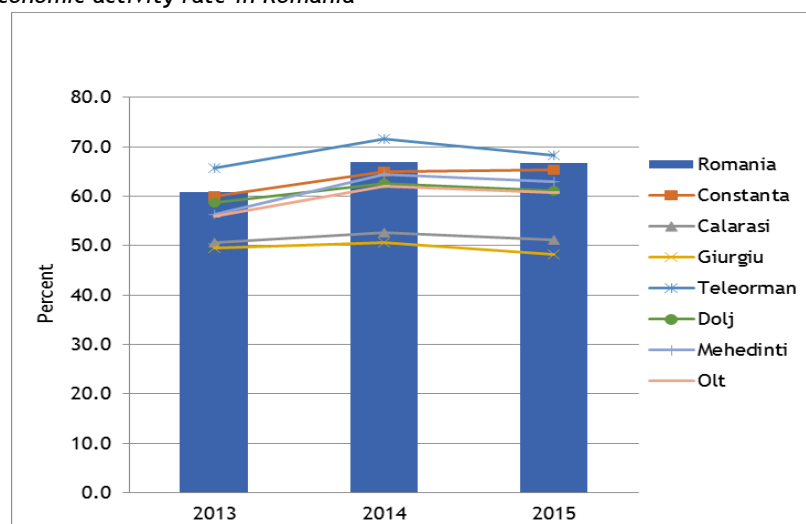


Table : Persons other than Labour Force aged 15 and above in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Counties and by sex in thousands of people

Country, Region, County	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Inactive population	Men	Women	Inactive population	Men	Women	Inactive population	Men	Women
Bulgaria		2883.3	1215.2	1668.1	2850.8	1194.3	1656.5	2834.9	1187.3	1647.6
Severozapaden region		377.1	165.0	212.1	369.6	163.3	206.3	365.9	160.0	205.9
Vidin		43.9	18.5	25.5	41.6	17.3	24.3	40.3	17.2	23.1
Vratsa		83.7	36.8	46.9	79.0	34.1	45.0	81.9	35.8	46.1
Montana		65.6	28.0	37.5	61.9	27.5	34.3	68.4	30.4	37.9
Pleven		115.8	50.1	65.7	118.6	53.1	65.5	110.0	47.4	62.5
Severozentralen region		363.0	152.3	210.7	358.1	148.6	209.4	349.1	146.3	202.8
Veliko Tarnovo		107.8	45.1	62.7	103.4	43.5	59.9	100.1	40.8	59.4
Ruse		100.2	43.4	56.8	103.5	45.0	58.5	99.3	44.7	54.5
Silistra		53.2	21.3	31.9	50.3	19.6	30.6	51.4	21.1	30.2
Severoztochen region		370.7	154.1	216.5	367.4	151.4	216.0	356.5	144.5	212.0
Dobrich		69.9	28.6	41.3	68.1	28.0	40.1	69.2	28.1	41.1

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Persons other than Labour Force at working-age in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts and by sex in thousands of people

Country, Region, County	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Inactive population	Men	Women	Inactive population	Men	Women	Inactive population	Men	Women
Bulgaria		1536.5	679.4	857.0	1486.9	653.8	833.0	1450.6	639.5	811.1
Severozapaden region		187.4	87.5	99.9	179.1	86.0	93.0	176.5	84.2	92.3
Vidin		19.2	8.3	10.9	16.5	7.1	9.5	15.3	7.2	8.2
Vratsa		45.1	21.2	23.9	40.2	18.3	21.9	43.1	20.2	23.0
Montana		32.2	14.4	17.8	28.6	14.1	14.5	35.2	17.1	18.1
Pleven		55.7	25.6	30.1	58.2	28.5	29.7	50.8	24.0	26.8
Severozentralen region		190.7	83.3	107.4	183.4	78.7	104.7	172.3	76.1	96.2
Veliko Tarnovo		57.9	25.4	32.5	52.5	23.0	29.5	48.5	20.1	28.4
Ruse		52.2	24.2	28.0	55.1	25.8	29.3	50.5	25.6	24.9
Silistra		29.6	11.2	18.4	26.5	9.6	16.9	27.0	11.0	16.0
Severoztochen region		206.4	88.3	118.0	200.5	84.8	115.7	186.2	76.3	109.9
Dobrich		36.4	15.1	21.3	34.7	14.9	19.9	34.8	14.5	20.3

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Economically active persons in the Bulgarian Districts of the cross-border region account for 18.5% of Bulgaria's Labour Force aged 15 and over, as their relative share is decreasing over the period 2013-2015.

In total for the region, the absolute size of economically active persons is decreasing. In this respect, the trend is similar to that typical for the country as a whole.

The highest decrease in the number of economically active persons was in 2015 compared to 2013 in the Districts of Montana (11.59%), Vratsa (5%) and Ruse (3.04%). A minimum increase of 0.25% was recorded for the same period in the District of Vidin only, but the growth is negative compared to 2014.

The gender structure of the people in employment shows that male activity is greater. The largest share of economically active men is in the District of Silistra - 57.45% in 2015, and their share was the lowest in Ruse -51.72%. For the reference period, a lasting downward trend of their relative share is observed in the Districts of Ruse and Vidin. All other Districts area characterized by hesitant trends, and in 2015 compared to 2014, the relative share of economically active men was growing.

The absolute size of unemployed persons aged 15 and above is decreasing in the Bulgarian part of the cross-border region, which is a typical trend of the country as a whole. The cross-domain by Districts is very different. There was steady decrease in the number of unemployed persons over the period 2013-2015 in the Districts of Veliko Tarnovo, Ruse, Dobrich and Montana. In the rest of the Districts, there were hesitant trends of growth and decrease. In 2015 compared to 2014, besides the above mentioned Districts, the number of unemployed persons in Vidin, Vratsa and Silistra has decreased. In the District of Pleven the number of unemployed persons only in 2015 increased compared to the previous year by 7.53%.

The Economic activity rate of the population aged 15 and over, for all the cross-border regions of Bulgaria in 2015 was lower than the average for the country (54.1%). The District of Dobrich forms the only exception, where the economic activity rate is 55.7%. At the same time, this is the only District where this ratio has a steady downward trend over the reference period.

Persons other than Labour Force in the same age group, in terms of absolute number, is decreasing. In the different Districts there are different characteristics. There was a permanent decrease over the period in the Districts of Veliko Tarnovo and Vidin. An increase in 2015 compared to 2014 was observed in Vratsa, Montana, Silistra and Dobrich.

Logically, the proportion of women, other than Labour Force, is higher than that of men. Compared to the average indicator for the country (58.12%), in five of the Districts, the relative share of women, other than Labour Force, is smaller than the average for the country: Ruse, Montana, Vratsa, Pleven and Vidin.

In terms of the Working-age population, the characteristics of economic activity are similar to those for people aged 15 and over. In 2015, 18.4% of the economically active persons of Bulgaria were located in the territory of the cross-border region.

Here, also, there is a tendency of decrease in their absolute number, as the decrease in 2014 compared to 2013 was by 0.95% and by 2.65% in 2015.

In 2014 and 2015 compared to the previous years, there was a Labour Force decrease only in the District of Dobrich. For all the rest, the changes are both towards a decrease and an increase. In 2015, there were only three Districts in which the economically active population has increased - Pleven (3.42%), Ruse (1.88%) and Veliko Tarnovo (0.18%). In the rest of the Districts, the absolute number of economically active persons is decreasing.

The relative share of economically active working-age men is higher than the economically active women. In 2015, the share of economically active women in the Districts of Pleven (47.02%) and Ruse (48.62%) was higher than the average for the country (46.76%).

In 2015, the Economic activity rate of the population aged 15-64 was the highest in the Districts of Vidin (72.3%), Dobrich (70.8%) and Veliko Tarnovo (69.8%). In these areas, the rate value is above the national average (69.3%).

Data on unemployed persons show that there is an overall trend for the whole region of decrease in their number. In two of the Districts - Veliko Tarnovo and Ruse, there is a lasting downward trend for the reference period, as in Veliko Tarnovo in 2015 compared to 2014 the decrease was by 42.54%. In 2015, there was a decrease in the absolute number of unemployed persons in all other Districts. The only exception was in the District of Pleven, where the number of unemployed persons increased by 8.79%. The largest decline in 2015 was in the District of Montana - 57.73%.

In parallel with the decrease in the absolute number of economically active working-age persons, in the territory of the Bulgarian Districts of the cross-border region, the total number of persons other than Labour force has also decreased.

In terms of individual Districts, over the period 2013-2015, a steady downward trend in the number of People other than Labour Force was observed in the Districts of Vidin and Veliko Tarnovo. In 2015, the number of People other than Labour Force has increased compared to 2014 in the Districts of Montana, Vratsa, Silistra and Dobrich.

In terms of 'Gender Structure', the relative share of Women is higher than Men. In 2015, in three of the Districts the share of Women was higher than the average for the country (55.91%) - Silistra (59.26%), Veliko Tarnovo (58.56%) and Dobrich (58.33%).

Trends in the Economically Active Population in the Romanian Counties of the cross-border region are similar to those of the Bulgarian Districts.

Here, there is also a downward trend in the absolute number of economically active persons in the cross-border region.

Over the period 2013-2015, their number in all counties decreased, as a larger decrease was observed in 2014 compared to 2013. Such a trend is also present for the country as a whole. In 2014, compared to 2013, the largest declines in the number of economically active people were in: Mehedinți -14.26%, Olt -11.35% and Teleorman - 10.86%. These indicators were above the country average by 10%. There is a significant decline in Constanta -8.61% and Dolj - 8.26%. In 2015, declining rates have decreased, but in all the Counties, with the exception of Giurgiu, they were above the average for the country - 0.93%.

The Economic activity rate varies greatly across the Counties, as it is the largest and above average for the country (70%) in Teleorman - 77.4% and Mehedinți - 71%. The lowest Economic activity is observed in the Counties of Giurgiu (52%) and Călărași (55%).

Over the reference period, in 2015 compared to 2014, the absolute number of registered unemployed persons declined in all the Counties, with the exception of the County of Mehedinți, where their number grew by 6.59%. In 2014, compared to the previous year, there was also a decrease in the number of unemployed persons. Growth was registered only in two of the Counties - Giurgiu and Teleorman, respectively by 11.82% and 1.2%.

As a relative share of registered unemployed persons, in terms of the number of persons in employment, a steady downward trend was observed only in the County of Constanța - from 2.75% in 2013 to 2.67% in 2014 and 2.46% in 2015. In the rest of the Counties of the cross-border region of Romania, the trends are variable. An increase in the relative share was recorded in almost all the Counties in 2014 in comparison with 2013 and in 2015 the trend was the opposite - the relative share

of registered unemployed persons has decreased. The County of Mehedinti is an exception to this rule only.

The ratio between economically active men and women is in favour of men in all the Counties. Over the reference period, there was a downward trend of the relative share of women in the structure of persons in employment in four of the Counties - Giurgiu, Teleorman, Dolj, Mehedinți,.

3.1.4. Employment and Unemployment Assessment

3.1.4.1. People in Employment and Hired Persons, Employment rate

Table : People in employment aged 15 and over in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in Th. people

Country, Region, District	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Employed	Men	Women	Employed	Men	Women	Employed	Men	Women
Bulgaria		2934.9	1546.9	1388.1	2981.4	1577.1	1404.3	3031.9	1607.5	1424.3
Severozapaden region		284.4	150.2	134.3	279.7	145.1	134.6	280.4	148.7	131.8
Vidin		33.6	18.0	15.6	32.1	16.5	15.6	33.2	17.0	16.2
Vratsa		61.3	32.6	28.7	60.4	32.2	28.2	56.4	30.5	25.9
Montana		48.1	25.5	22.6	49.7	25.9	23.8	46.9	25.1	21.9
Pleven		96.8	51.2	45.6	94.6	48.4	46.2	99.2	52.5	46.7
Severen tsentralen region		314.1	168.8	145.3	318.9	172.6	146.3	327.9	177.0	151.0
Veliko Tarnovo		94.8	50.2	44.7	101.5	53.5	48.0	107.1	58.6	48.5
Ruse		89.4	47.5	41.9	86.4	45.8	40.6	90.1	46.4	43.6
Silistra		37.4	21.2	16.2	38.2	22.1	16.1	36.8	20.6	16.2
Severozitochen region		370.1	200.3	169.8	389.1	211.0	178.1	405.8	223.1	182.7
Dobrich		75.2	39.7	35.5	76.7	40.8	35.8	74.9	41.7	33.2

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : People in employment aged 15 and over in Romania by statistical regions and Counties of in th. people

Country, Region, County	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Employed	Men	Women	Employed	Men	Women	Employed	Men	Women
Romania		8530.6	4524.8	4005.8	8431.7	4478.4	3953.3	8340.6	4492.8	3847.8
South-east		1003.9	537.1	466.8	986.8	526.1	460.7	969.0	532.3	436.7
Constanta		295.1	166.4	128.7	291.6	162.2	129.4	289.2	168.6	120.6
South Muntenia		1168.8	624.1	544.7	1146.5	612.3	534.2	1117.7	601.7	516.0
Calarasi		98.8	48.2	50.6	95.8	46.8	49.0	91.8	46.6	45.2
Giurgiu		87.9	45.4	42.5	86.6	45.0	41.6	82.0	42.8	39.2
Teleorman		154.3	78.9	75.4	150.1	75.8	74.3	140.6	72.3	68.3
South-west Oltenia		832.0	438.9	393.1	813.8	431.4	382.4	787.7	422.9	364.8
Dolj		262.7	137.3	125.4	257.3	135.4	121.9	248.8	135.0	113.8
Mehedinti		105.3	54.3	51.0	103.2	53.8	49.4	99.3	51.1	48.2
Olt		163.5	82.5	81.0	160.8	82.8	78.0	154.6	80.8	73.8

Source: NSI Romania

Table : People in employment at working-age in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in th. people

Country, Region, County	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Employed	Men	Women	Employed	Men	Women	Employed	Men	Women
Bulgaria		2889.4	1518.0	1371.5	2927.4	1543.3	1384.1	2973.5	1571.7	1401.8
Severozapaden region		280.4	147.8	132.6	275.1	142.1	133.0	273.4	144.0	129.4
Vidin		32.9	17.6	15.3	31.5	16.1	15.4	32.5	16.6	15.9
Vratsa		60.7	32.1	28.6	59.9	31.8	28.1	55.5	29.9	25.6
Montana		47.2	25.1	22.1	48.5	25.3	23.2	45.6	24.3	21.2
Pleven		95.5	50.3	45.2	93.1	47.5	45.6	95.8	50.2	45.6
Severen tsentralen region		308.5	165.0	143.5	312.6	168.4	144.1	321.2	172.3	148.9
Veliko Tarnovo		92.1	48.3	43.8	98.7	51.8	46.8	104.6	57.0	47.6
Ruse		88.7	47.0	41.7	85.4	45.0	40.4	88.9	45.5	43.4
Silistra		36.9	21.0	15.9	37.5	21.8	15.7	36.0	20.1	15.8
Severoiztochen region		364.6	196.3	168.4	381.7	206.3	175.4	397.8	218.6	179.2
Dobrich		73.8	38.7	35.1	74.5	39.4	35.1	72.8	40.3	32.5

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : People in employment at working-age by Age Group in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in th. people

Country, Region	Year	2013					2014					2015				
		15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Bulgaria		164.5	659.5	842.0	731.9	491.5	152.7	669.2	850.9	743.5	511.2	143.2	682.4	853.4	764.5	530.1
Severozapaden Region		14.2	57.7	80.6	78.1	49.9	14.7	52.4	77.6	78.7	51.6	10.6	52.0	79.1	77.8	54.0
Vidin		1.4	5.8	9.3	9.7	6.7	1.2	5.1	8.2	9.4	7.6	0.5	4.5	9.5	10.6	7.4
Vratsa		2.9	13.8	19.5	16.2	8.3	3.1	13.7	18.6	15.3	9.1	3.2	10.8	15.8	15.7	10.2
Montana		2.8	8.5	13.1	13.7	9.1	3.4	8.3	13.0	13.9	9.9	1.7	9.4	12.5	12.3	9.6
Pleven		5.7	20.7	26.7	25.0	17.5	5.4	18.4	24.6	27.6	17.1	3.5	20.0	27.3	26.7	18.3
Severen tsentralen region		16.5	65.7	92.9	83.4	50.0	15.4	67.4	88.4	86.6	54.9	14.6	69.1	88.0	89.5	59.9
Veliko Tarnovo		5.2	18.1	27.7	25.6	15.5	5.1	20.8	28.2	26.1	18.4	3.9	22.8	30.4	27.8	19.7
Ruse		4.1	20.3	26.3	23.2	14.8	3.7	19.3	23.4	23.5	15.4	4.3	19.3	25.9	23.4	16.0
Silistra		2.1	7.4	10.4	10.4	6.5	2.3	8.2	9.4	10.5	7.1	1.5	8.7	9.2	10.5	6.0
Severoiztochen region		23.6	88.7	104.6	86.4	61.3	22.2	86.6	118.1	93.4	61.4	21.3	87.0	124.2	100.8	64.4
Dobrich		4.6	13.2	22.9	18.8	14.3	4.6	15.5	21.8	19.0	13.5	3.7	16.8	19.5	20.9	11.8

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : People in employment aged 15 and over by Education in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in th. people

Country, Region, District	Year	2013				2014				2015			
		Tertiary	Secondary	Secondary vocational	Primary or lower	Tertiary	Secondary	Secondary vocational	Primary or lower	Tertiary	Secondary	Secondary vocational	Primary or lower
Bulgaria		887.4	1741.1	1143.4	306.5	946.3	1703.8	1107.7	331.3	977.8	1732.3	1100.5	321.7
Severozapaden region		69.0	191.3	135.0	24.1	75.7	180.1	126.6	23.9	82.3	175.4	121.1	22.7
Vidin		6.0	25.7	13.8	1.9	7.7	22.9	11.2	1.5	9.6	22.5	10.1	1.1
Vratsa		15.1	40.8	29.9	5.4	16.9	37.2	26.1	6.3	17.1	33.3	22.6	5.9
Montana		12.0	32.8	26.4	3.3	11.9	33.2	26.8	4.6	11.6	31.2	24.7	4.2
Pleven		26.0	62.5	46.2	8.3	27.9	59.7	45.5	7.0	31.5	60.3	46.3	7.4
Severozentralen region		87.4	191.5	151.6	35.1	89.0	188.6	151.6	41.3	90.2	199.7	153.2	38.0
Veliko Tarnovo		31.5	56.2	40.3	7.2	33.7	58.5	44.4	9.2	31.3	66.0	45.9	9.8
Ruse		24.8	55.4	46.0	9.2	23.7	53.0	45.7	9.7	25.4	57.2	48.4	7.5
Silistra		8.7	22.7	17.9	5.9	7.6	23.6	18.3	7.1	7.9	21.6	16.3	7.3
Severozentralen region		112.8	207.5	126.2	49.8	127.9	205.0	127.0	56.2	122.8	228.5	137.9	54.6
Dobrich		16.6	47.1	25.3	11.6	16.8	47.1	24.2	12.8	17.6	45.2	22.2	12.2

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Figure : Relative share of people in employment by education

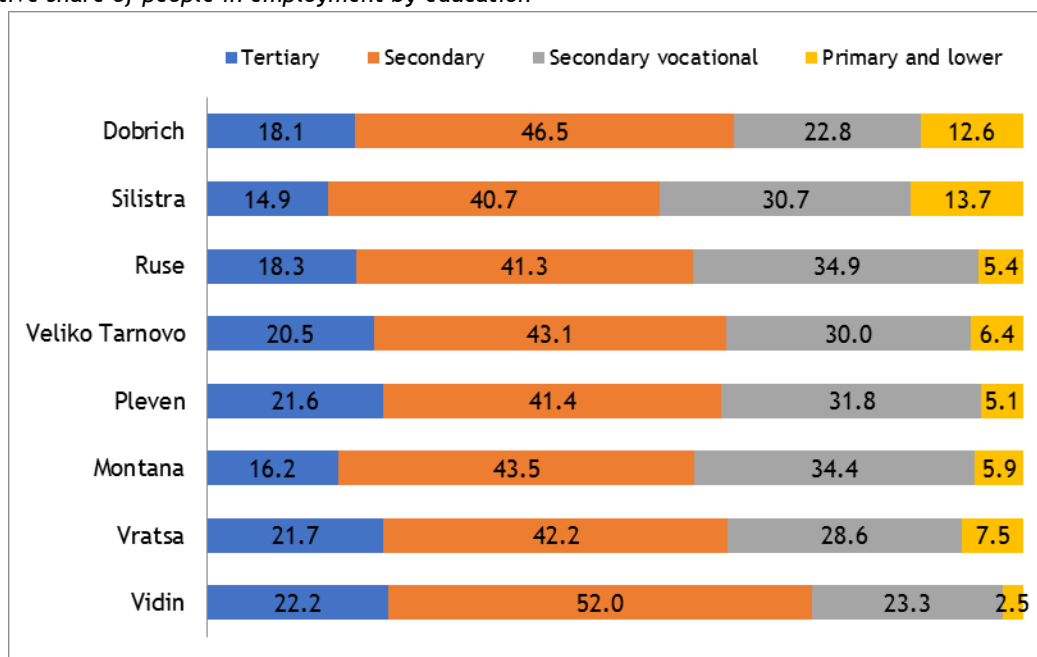


Table : People in employment by Economic activities in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in 2013 in th. people

Country, Region, District	Sector	Total	Sector A	Sector B, C, D and E	Including sector C	Sector F	Sectors G, H and I	Sector J	Sector K	Sector L	Sectors M and N	Sectors O, P and Q	Sectors R, S, T and U
Bulgaria		3421.6	656.2	680.4	584.4	179.4	853.6	77.6	63.1	26.5	240.6	547.2	97.1
Severozapaden region		309.4	86.1	70.8	59.5	10.8	54.9	1.2	1.9	1.3	14.4	61.0	1.2
Vidin		33.9	11.2	4.9	3.4	0.8	5.7	0.2	0.2	0.1	2.1	7.6	1.3
Vratsa		67.5	18.9	14.3	9.1	3.7	12.0	0.3	0.4	0.2	3.2	13.2	0.9
Montana		51.0	15.5	11.6	10.1	1.4	8.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	2.7	9.9	2.3
Pleven		100.5	26.4	22.8	20.3	3.9	18.4	0.4	0.8	0.6	4.8	20.1	2.7
Severen tsentralen region		357.7	91.4	92.8	86.4	12.6	75.0	2.0	2.5	1.6	13.0	57.8	3.0
Veliko Tarnovo		104.2	24.9	23.4	21.6	3.9	24.7	0.8	0.8	0.5	3.3	19.2	0.6
Ruse		103.8	20.1	31.1	29.2	4.0	23.7	0.8	1.0	0.5	4.6	14.8	1.9
Silistra		46.8	22.2	5.9	5.3	1.2	7.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.4	7.7	0.6
Severoiztochen region		424.3	102.7	65.5	55.8	26.6	113.6	4.1	4.6	3.8	25.8	65.7	11.9
Dobrich		83.6	33.1	12.5	11.1	2.8	17.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	3.4	11.7	1.9

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : People in employment by economic activities in Romania by statistical regions and Counties in 2013 in th. People

Country, Region, County	Romania	South-east Region	Constanta	South Muntenia	Calarasi	Giurgiu	Teleorman	South-west Oltenia	Dolj	Mehedinti	Olt
Sector											
Sector A	2380.1	323.9	62.7	419.1	48.2	45.1	83.8	323.3	105.9	47.8	76.6
Industry	1777.6	190.6	50.9	258.6	15.5	8.4	23.2	154.2	40.3	15.3	30.4
Sector B	63.3	3.9	1.6	11.2	:	0.9	1.4	18.1	1.1	0.7	0.9
Sector C	1531.8	158.9	38.4	223.5	13.2	5.5	19	112.7	32.9	11.3	27.2
Sector D	59.8	9.4	4	5.9	0.4	0.5	0.4	12	3.2	1.8	0.5
Sector E	122.7	18.4	6.9	18	1.9	1.5	2.4	11.4	3.1	1.5	1.8
Sector F	631.7	82.1	33	71.3	4.4	7.5	3.4	58.9	15.4	8.6	7.8
Sector G	1229	137.2	48.7	146.5	9.7	7.3	16.2	101.6	35.3	11.3	15.2
Sector H	429.6	54.6	25.2	57.7	3.6	4.4	5.3	33.1	10.4	4.2	5.6
Sector I	155.7	19.4	8.8	14.3	0.8	0.3	0.9	11.6	3.9	1.2	0.9
Sector J	152.9	10.1	4.1	7.1	0.4	0.2	0.5	5.8	2.1	0.3	1.1
Sector K	122	7.9	2.9	6.6	0.5	0.4	0.6	5.4	1.8	0.7	1
Sector L	35.3	4.2	1.8	3.9	0.2	0.2	0.2	3.6	1.2	0.6	0.5
Sector M	169.1	12.6	3.5	16.7	1.4	0.7	1.2	9.3	4.1	1	1.4
Sector N	271.2	25.5	11.9	30	2.4	2.7	3.4	19.8	6.3	1.9	3.2
Sector O	191.3	22	6	25.8	2.6	2.5	3.4	19.7	5.9	3.1	3.7
Sector P	378.7	42.2	11.1	44.8	4.2	3.1	5	37.3	12.8	4.4	6.9
Sector Q	372.5	41.7	12.9	45.3	3.7	4	4.9	34.6	12.8	3.7	6.4
Sector R	71.9	7.4	2.8	7.6	0.8	0.7	0.5	5.3	1.9	0.6	0.8
Sector S	162	22.5	8.8	13.5	0.4	0.4	1.8	8.5	2.6	0.6	2

Source: NSI Romania

Table : People in employment by economic activities in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in 2014 in th. people

Country, Region, District	Sector	Total	Sector A	Sectors B, C, D and E	Including sector C	Sector F	Sectors G, H and I	Sector J	Sector K	Sector L	Sectors M and N	Sectors O, P and Q	Sectors R, S, T and U
Bulgaria		3434.2	666.5	681.7	587.4	177.9	860.4	78.9	62.6	26.8	233.1	548.2	98.1
Severozapaden region		304.6	89.0	70.2	59.0	9.8	55.3	1.2	1.6	1.3	10.2	60.0	6.0
Vidin		31.5	10.1	4.9	3.5	0.7	5.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.3	7.5	0.9
Vratsa		66.8	20.2	14.1	8.9	3.5	11.7	0.3	0.4	0.2	2.3	13.0	1.1
Montana		49.8	15.3	11.3	9.8	1.5	8.9	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.7	9.9	0.8
Pleven		101.3	28.6	22.7	20.2	3.2	19.2	0.4	0.7	0.6	3.6	20.2	2.2
Severen tsentralen region		355.6	95.9	91.6	85.6	12.4	73.3	2.0	2.2	1.4	10.8	57.1	8.8
Veliko Tarnovo		104.7	27.1	23.7	21.9	4.0	23.7	0.8	0.7	0.5	2.8	18.7	2.6
Ruse		102.5	21.5	30.6	28.7	3.8	23.6	0.8	0.8	0.5	3.9	14.5	2.6
Silistra		46.9	23.1	5.8	5.1	1.3	7.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.0	7.4	0.6
Severoztochen region		437.0	109.3	67.0	57.5	27.5	118.1	4.1	4.2	3.7	24.6	66.0	12.4
Dobrich		84.0	34.1	12.2	10.8	2.9	17.6	0.2	0.3	0.5	2.7	11.6	1.9

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : People in employment by economic activities in Romania by statistical regions and Counties in 2014 in th. people

Country, Region, County	Romania	South-east Region	Constanta	South Muntenia	Calarasi	Giurgiu	Teleorman	South-west Oltenia	Dolj	Mehedinti	Olt
Sector											
Sector A	2304.1	314.9	61.4	404.4	46.2	43.3	80.9	312.6	102	46	74.6
Industry	1781.8	189.5	50.7	257.3	15.4	8.2	23	151.4	39.4	15.4	30.7
Sector B	61.9	3.9	1.6	10.8	0.1	0.7	1.5	17	1	0.7	0.9
Sector C	1536.2	157.9	38.5	222.7	13.2	5.6	18.7	110.2	32	11.2	27.6
Sector D	58.3	8.6	3.8	5.6	0.3	0.4	0.3	12.5	3.1	2	0.6
Sector E	125.4	19.1	6.8	18.2	1.8	1.5	2.5	11.7	3.3	1.5	1.6
Sector F	627.9	81	31.6	70.8	4.6	7.2	3.6	58.9	15.1	8.8	8.7
Sector G	1205.5	134.3	48.5	142	9.2	7.2	15.5	100.5	35.4	10.5	14.9
Sector H	408.4	52.3	25.1	53.4	3.3	4.4	4.4	31.2	9.8	4.3	5
Sector I	164.5	20.3	8.9	15.5	0.9	0.4	1	12.1	4.1	1.4	1
Sector J	160.7	9.7	4.3	7.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	6.1	2.9	0.3	1
Sector K	118.1	7.4	2.7	7	0.5	0.4	0.6	5.3	1.8	0.7	0.9
Sector L	28.7	3.1	1.4	3.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	2.3	0.7	0.3	0.2
Sector M	175	13.6	3.7	17.1	1.5	0.7	1.3	9.6	4.4	1	1.3
Sector N	282.5	27.1	11.7	30.9	2.5	2.8	3.6	18.2	5.6	1.7	3.1
Sector O	195.9	22.7	6.2	26.4	2.7	2.7	3.5	20	5.9	3.1	3.7
Sector P	373.2	41.3	11.3	44.2	4	3.2	5.1	37.4	12.8	4.4	6.9
Sector Q	377.4	41.2	13	45.4	3.4	4	4.9	34.8	12.9	3.8	6.2
Sector R	74.6	7.7	3.1	8.1	0.7	0.7	0.5	5.1	1.9	0.7	0.7
Sector S	153.4	20.7	8	13.4	0.5	0.9	1.6	8.3	2.6	0.8	1.9

Source: NSI Romania

Table : People in employment by economic activities in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in 2015 in th. people

Country, Region, District	Sector	Total	Sector A	Sectors B, C, D and E	Including sector C	Sector F	Sectors G, H and I	Sector J	Sector K	Sector L	Sectors M and N	Sectors O, P and Q	Sectors R, S, T and U
Bulgaria		3446.2	649.0	695.0	600.9	182.4	865.4	85.0	64.5	26.1	233.2	544.8	98.1
Severozapaden region		300.8	86.4	68.8	59.1	9.8	57.4	1.3	2.1	1.4	8.9	59.0	6.0
Vidin		31.5	10.7	4.6	3.7	0.8	5.9	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.3	7.0	0.9
Vratsa		62.2	18.0	13.1	8.7	3.0	11.9	0.3	0.4	0.2	1.8	12.5	1.1
Montana		50.6	15.5	11.1	9.8	1.6	9.5	0.2	0.3	0.1	1.3	10.0	0.8
Pleven		102.1	27.7	23.0	20.8	3.5	19.9	0.4	1.0	0.7	3.3	20.3	2.2
Severozentralen region		365.5	96.8	99.0	86.4	13.8	74.6	2.1	2.3	1.5	10.9	56.0	8.8
Veliko Tarnovo		107.9	28.9	24.7	23.1	4.9	23.5	0.9	0.7	0.5	3.0	18.2	2.6
Ruse		100.9	19.7	30.3	27.6	4.0	23.7	0.8	0.9	0.5	4.1	14.1	2.6
Silistra		45.8	21.7	5.9	5.2	1.3	7.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.1	7.5	0.6
Severozichen region		438.3	110.7	67.4	58.7	26.6	116.5	4.3	4.8	3.7	25.5	66.3	12.4
Dobrich		80.3	31.1	11.4	10.1	2.7	17.9	0.3	0.4	0.4	2.9	11.3	1.9

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Figure : People in employment by economic activities in Bulgaria in 2015

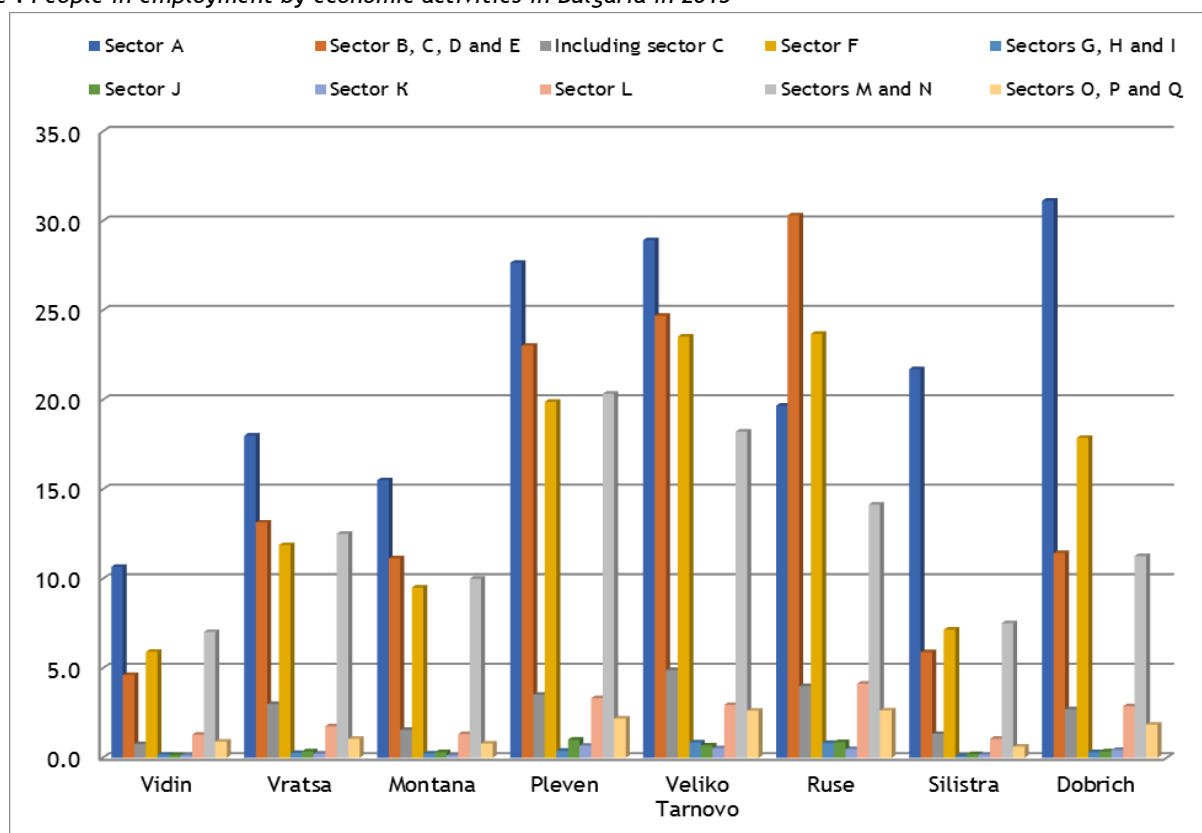


Table : People in employment by economic activities in Romania by statistical regions and Counties in 2015 in th. people

Country, Region, County	Romania	South-east Region	Constanta	South Muntenia	Calarasi	Giurgiu	Teleorman	South-west Oltenia	Dolj	Mehedinti	Olt
Sector											
Sector A	2003.1	274.3	53.6	351.9	40.9	37.8	69.6	270.7	88.2	39.7	64.8
Industry	1872.3	194.5	51.8	270	16.1	8.4	23.3	157.4	40.4	16.9	32.1
Sector B	57.4	3.7	1.4	9.5	0.1	10.7	1.3	15.2	0.9	0.7	0.8
Sector C	1633.5	163.9	40.4	236.9	13.8	5.9	19.2	119.4	33.3	13.4	29.3
Sector D	55.1	8.1	3.7	5.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	11	2.8	1.3	0.4
Sector E	126.3	18.8	6.3	18.3	1.9	1.5	2.5	11.8	3.4	1.5	1.6
Sector F	642.9	83.6	32.1	72.3	4.7	7.5	3.9	60.5	16	8.6	8.9
Sector G	1223.6	136.6	48.8	142	9.1	7.1	15.6	102.1	35.7	11.4	15.3
Sector H	428.7	55.8	27	57.2	3.4	4.9	4.6	32.9	10.3	4.4	5.3
Sector I	174.2	21.7	9.5	15.4	1.1	0.4	1.1	12.7	4	1.5	1.1
Sector J	186.6	12.8	5.4	8.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	8	3.3	0.2	1.8
Sector K	102	7.6	2.7	7	0.5	0.4	0.6	5.2	1.9	0.6	0.8
Sector L	32	3.1	1.3	3.8	0.1	0.3	0.4	2.7	0.7	0.4	0.4
Sector M	182.6	14.2	3.8	18.1	1.6	0.6	1.5	10.9	5.3	1	1.6
Sector N	297.1	28.7	12.3	32.6	2.6	2.9	3.9	17.5	6.3	1.9	2.6
Sector O	198.4	23.3	6.3	26.8	2.8	2.7	3.7	20.1	5.9	3.1	3.8
Sector P	373.2	40.9	11	43.9	3.9	3	5.3	36.7	12.5	4.5	6.7
Sector Q	388.2	42.9	13.6	45.8	3.4	3.9	4.9	35	12.9	3.6	6.3
Sector R	77.5	7.6	3	8.2	0.7	0.8	0.5	5.4	2.2	0.7	0.7
Sector S	158.2	21.4	7	14.5	0.6	1	1.3	9.9	3.2	0.8	2.4

Source: NSI Romania

Figure : People in employment by economic activities in Romania in 2015

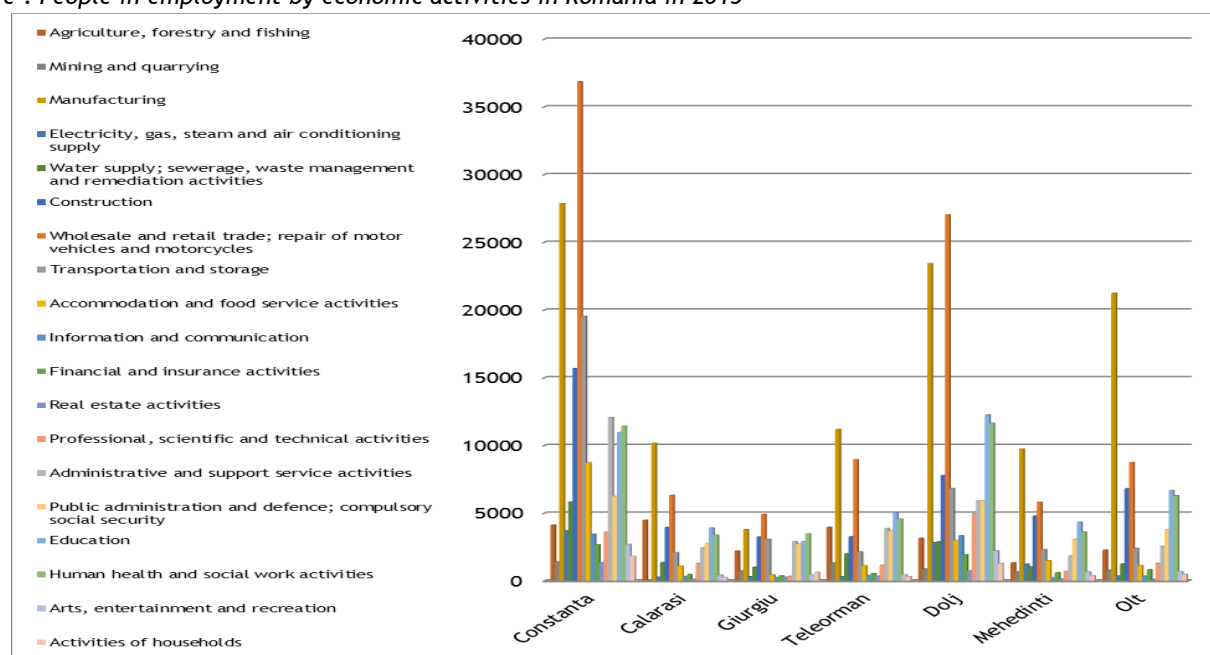


Table : Employment rate of the population aged 15 and over in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts as a percentage

Country, Region, District	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Employment rate	Men	Women	Employment rate	Men	Women	Employment rate	Men	Women
Bulgaria		46.9	51.4	42.8	48.0	52.7	43.6	49.1	54.1	44.5
Severozapaden region		40.2	43.7	36.9	40.2	43.0	37.6	41.0	44.8	37.3
Vidin		39.6	43.9	35.6	38.8	41.3	36.5	40.9	43.4	38.6
Vratsa		39.4	42.9	36.1	39.5	43.2	36.0	37.5	41.6	33.6
Montana		39.0	42.5	35.7	41.0	44.0	38.2	39.3	43.2	35.6
Pleven		42.9	46.7	39.2	42.5	45.0	40.2	45.2	49.6	41.2
Severen tsentralen region		42.8	47.6	38.3	44.0	49.3	39.0	45.8	51.2	40.8
Veliko Tarnovo		42.9	47.4	38.8	46.5	51.1	42.2	49.8	56.9	43.3
Ruse		44.2	48.5	40.2	43.1	47.2	39.3	45.4	48.4	42.7
Silistra		37.1	42.9	31.5	38.4	45.3	31.7	37.4	42.8	32.1
Severozitochen region		45.4	50.6	40.4	47.9	53.6	42.5	50.2	57.0	43.8
Dobrich		47.3	51.3	43.4	48.6	53.3	44.2	48.0	55.1	41.3

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Employment rate of the population at working age in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts as a percentage

Country, Region, District	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Employment rate	Men	Women	Employment rate	Men	Women	Employment rate	Men	Women
Bulgaria		59.5	62.1	56.8	61.0	63.9	58.2	62.9	65.9	59.8
Severozapaden region		54.6	56.0	53.1	55.0	55.4	54.7	56.1	57.4	54.6
Vidin		55.6	57.9	53.2	55.3	55.0	55.6	58.8	58.3	59.4
Vratsa		52.1	53.6	50.6	52.9	54.6	51.1	50.3	52.5	47.8
Montana		53.0	54.6	51.3	55.9	56.4	55.4	53.7	55.5	51.8
Pleven		58.1	59.8	56.2	58.0	58.0	58.1	61.2	62.8	59.6
Severen tsentralen region		55.5	58.6	52.3	57.4	61.0	53.8	60.4	63.7	56.9
Veliko Tarnovo		54.8	57.5	52.1	60.0	62.9	57.0	65.0	70.6	59.4
Ruse		57.7	60.1	55.3	56.6	58.4	54.7	60.0	60.0	59.9
Silistra		48.2	53.7	42.4	50.0	56.8	42.9	49.2	53.8	44.4
Severozitochen region		56.5	60.3	52.7	59.8	64.0	55.6	63.1	68.6	57.5
Dobrich		59.4	61.6	57.2	61.2	63.8	58.5	60.9	66.4	55.2

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Figure : Movement in the Employment rate in Bulgaria

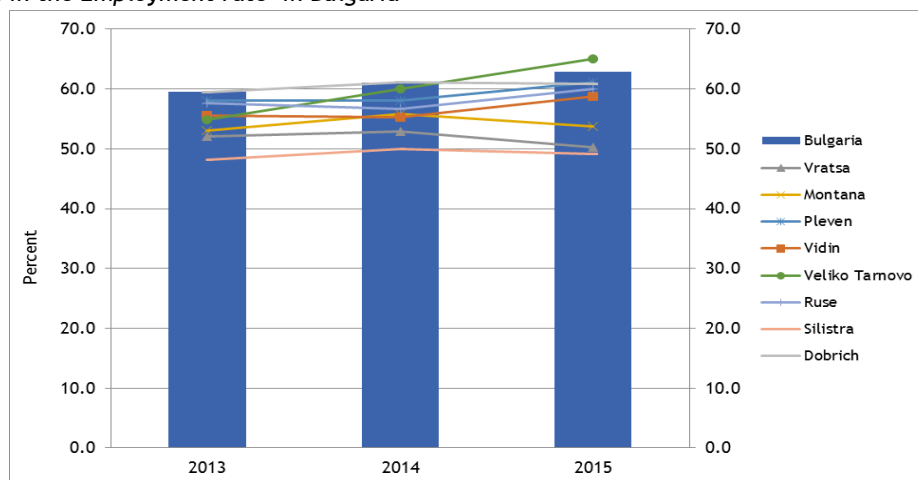


Table: Employment rate of the population at working age in Romania by statistical regions and Counties as a percentage

Country, Region, County	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Employment rate	Men	Women	Employment rate	Men	Women	Employment rate	Men	Women
Romania		60.9	62.6	59.1	66.9	67.8	66.0	66.8	68.7	64.7
South-east		54.5	56.2	52.6	68.8	71.1	66.3	62.8	65.2	60.2
Constanta		60.1	66.4	53.5	65.0	69.4	60.2	65.3	73.1	56.7
South Muntenia		56.5	58.0	54.9	58.7	57.7	60.0	59.6	60.5	58.6
Calarasi		50.7	47.4	54.4	52.7	48.6	57.3	51.2	49.1	53.6
Giurgiu		49.6	48.9	50.4	50.7	49.3	52.2	48.3	47.1	49.8
Teleorman		65.7	63.2	68.5	71.7	66.9	77.3	68.3	64.8	72.4
South-west Oltenia		58.1	58.9	57.2	63.0	63.4	62.6	63.3	64.3	62.2
Dolj		58.7	59.6	57.7	62.6	62.6	62.6	61.2	63.2	59.0
Mehedinti		56.4	55.5	57.4	64.5	63.1	66.1	63.0	60.8	65.7
Olt		55.9	53.8	58.3	62.0	59.9	64.5	60.7	59.6	62.0

Source: NSI Romania

Figure : Movement in the Employment rate in Romania

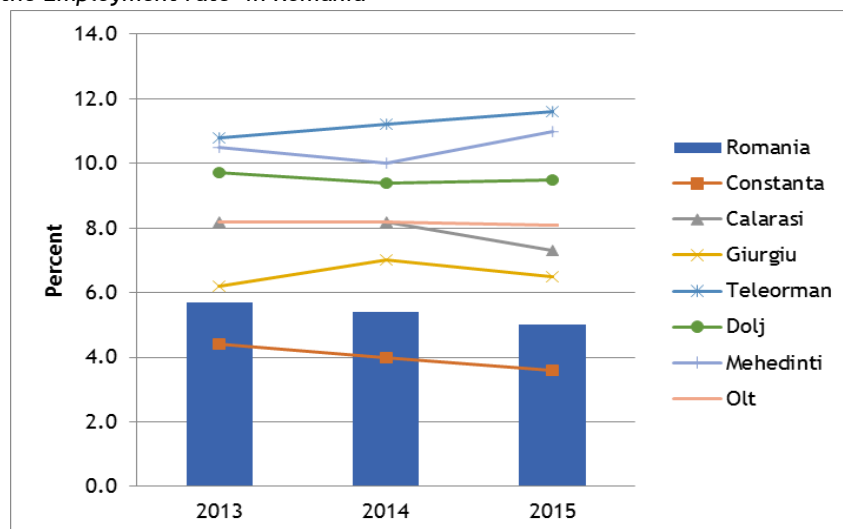


Table : Employment rate of the population at working age by Age Groups in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts as a percentage

Country, Region, District	Year	2013					2014					2015				
		15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Bulgaria		21.2	66.7	77.7	75.0	47.4	20.7	68.3	79.0	75.8	50.0	20.3	70.4	79.8	77.7	53.0
Severozapaden region		18.4	60.1	71.0	71.4	42.3	20.1	57.1	71.9	71.4	44.2	15.4	56.9	72.3	71.5	49.2
Vidin		19.6	62.4	66.7	76.4	41.7	20.5	57.8	70.3	75.9	41.3	11.8	56.9	73.4	75.4	46.1
Vratsa		15.0	54.4	71.8	68.6	39.8	16.0	55.4	72.4	65.3	46.2	17.4	48.0	66.3	65.5	45.8
Montana		19.7	56.4	65.8	70.7	44.2	26.9	61.8	70.3	69.6	44.8	14.6	55.7	71.5	67.2	47.6
Pleven		25.9	68.1	75.2	71.8	41.6	25.7	59.7	73.1	75.4	44.7	15.8	67.0	77.3	77.1	52.8
Severen tsentralen region		18.4	63.6	73.0	72.5	41.6	18.5	64.3	75.2	72.8	45.6	18.6	68.1	77.8	76.0	49.5
Veliko Tarnovo		17.5	61.0	71.3	77.2	42.6	22.0	68.5	76.3	76.4	46.2	17.8	75.6	81.8	82.8	51.7
Ruse		17.3	73.9	75.3	71.4	42.3	15.4	66.0	76.9	72.3	44.6	17.2	67.3	80.6	75.0	51.1
Silistra		17.9	47.9	65.4	63.5	38.6	20.1	50.1	65.2	61.1	45.1	15.0	55.8	66.5	62.0	36.5
Severoiztochen region		22.7	65.5	74.0	68.2	44.4	21.6	69.5	77.6	73.6	46.8	23.1	70.3	79.6	77.5	50.3
Dobrich		26.2	59.7	79.1	70.5	49.3	27.0	67.7	75.7	72.5	50.7	23.3	68.6	73.3	76.8	46.9

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Figure : Employment rate by Age groups in Bulgaria in 2015

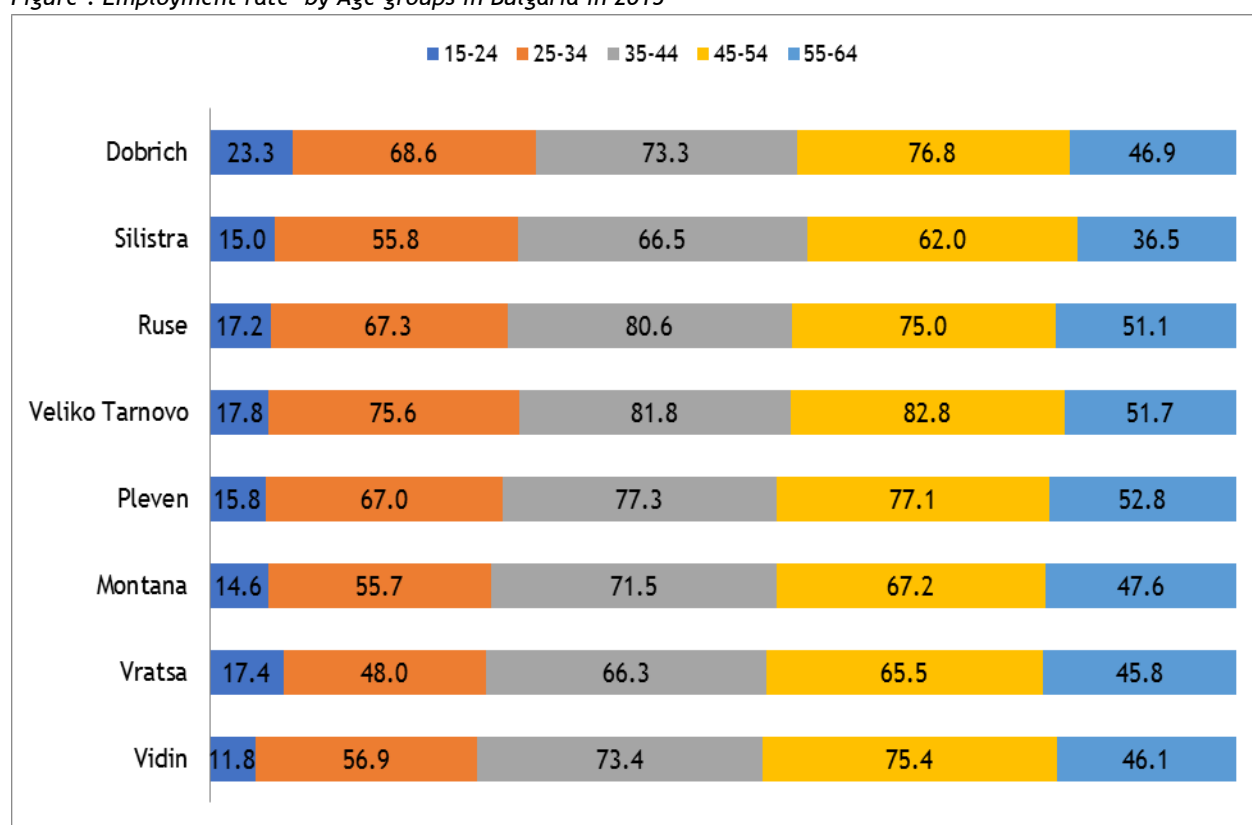


Table : Employment rate of the population at working age by education in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts as a percentage

Country, Region, District	2013					2014				2015		
	Tertiary	Secondary	Secondary vocational	Primary or lower	Tertiary	Secondary	Secondary vocational	Primary or lower	Tertiary	Secondary	Secondary vocational	Primary or lower
Bulgaria	68.8	54.4	60.3	17.4	69.8	54.8	60.6	18.9	71.3	55.7	61.4	19.0
Severozapaden region	62.5	49.1	55.0	11.6	64.2	48.9	54.5	11.4	69.4	48.7	53.7	11.0
Vidin	59.0	48.4	57.8	8.9	66.5	45.4	55.3	7.2	72.4	46.6	52.3	5.7
Vratsa	61.9	49.0	53.5	11.3	64.4	49.3	51.8	12.3	67.6	44.0	47.7	12.0
Montana	64.3	48.9	54.0	8.8	67.4	50.8	56.3	12.1	68.7	49.4	55.5	10.5
Pleven	61.6	51.8	55.0	13.2	61.8	51.7	54.6	11.3	70.7	54.1	57.6	11.8
Severozentralen region	67.7	52.4	56.7	14.7	67.5	53.6	57.7	17.1	67.4	55.6	59.1	17.1
Veliko Tarnovo	66.2	48.4	53.2	12.6	67.7	53.0	57.2	15.9	64.6	59.0	62.0	17.9
Ruse	66.4	52.0	55.2	15.7	62.3	50.8	54.7	16.7	68.2	53.6	58.3	13.8
Silistra	73.5	52.1	57.9	13.1	69.3	54.3	57.9	15.6	62.3	51.6	54.1	16.6
Severoztochen region	69.0	53.5	59.0	18.8	74.9	54.1	58.4	21.3	74.4	58.1	62.8	21.8
Dobrich	67.7	59.5	62.8	20.8	71.2	60.7	61.1	22.6	69.6	60.0	62.8	21.9

Source: NSI Bulgaria

The analysis carried out by 'People in Employment by Age' in the Bulgarian part of the cross-border region show that the number of people in employment aged 35-44 is the highest, followed by 45-54 Age Group. If the movement by year is tracked, a decrease in the absolute number of people in employment in the first group (35-44) within the period 2013 to 2015 and an increase in the number of people in employment in the second group (45-54 years) was observed.

Over the period there is also a decrease in the 15-24 Age Group, and an increase in the 55-64 Age Group. These trends testify to the aging of people in employment.

The structure by individual Districts show that in 2015 compared to the previous year, the relative share of people in employment aged 15-24 increased only in two Districts - Vratsa and Ruse. In all others, their relative share decreased. In the 55-64 Age Group, in 2015 compared to 2014, the relative share of persons in employment decreased in Vidin, Silistra, Dobrich and Ruse, and increased in the other Districts. In the 35-44 Age Group, the relative share of people in employment decreased in Vratsa and Dobrich, and increased in all other Districts. Among people in employment aged 45-54, the relative share in Montana, Pleven and Ruse decreased. In all other Districts, their share increased.

A decline in the relative share of people in employment aged 15-24 was characteristic for the entire region compared to the people in employment of that age across the country from 18.86% in 2014 to 15.57% in 2015, and an increase from 19.19% to 18.67% in the relative share of people in employment aged 55-64 compared to people in employment of this age in the country.

If tracking the Employment rate it appears that in the District of Veliko Tarnovo, in three of the Age Groups, it was above the average for the country it was higher in the 25-34 Age Group by 5.2%, in the 35-44 Age Group by 2% and in the 45-54 Age Group by 5.1% above the country average. An Employment rate above the country average was registered in the District of Dobrich in the 15-24 Age Group (3% above the national average) and in the District of Ruse - 35-44 Age Group by 0.8% above the average country level.

In 2015 compared to the previous 2014, the movement of Employment rate show that the largest decrease was in 15-24 Age Group. The indicator is decreasing in all the Districts, with an exception of Vratsa and Ruse. In some of the Districts, such as Montana and Pleven, the decrease was by more than 10%.

In 2015 compared to the previous year, the change in the Employment rate in the different Districts of the region is different. It is noteworthy, that in the District of Montana it decreased for all age groups, with the exception of 55-64 Age Group, in the District of Dobrich there was a decrease in 15-24, 35-44 and 55-64 Age Groups. In 2015, in the District of Ruse only the Employment rate increased in all age groups.

The educational structure of people in employment show that, in general for all the Districts of the cross-border region, the relative share of people in employment with a higher education is below the average, compared to this indicator for the country. In 2015, the highest share of people in employment with a higher education was in the Districts of Vidin (22.17%), Pleven (21.65%) and Veliko Tarnovo (20.46%).

An interesting characteristic is the movement in the number of people in employment with higher education. In 2013, the District of Vidin had the lowest relative share of people in employment with higher education, almost twice the average for the country, and the District of Veliko Tarnovo had a relative share of people in employment with higher education above the national average. Consequently, in 2015 compared to 2013, the number of people in employment with higher education in Vidin increased by 60% and those in Veliko Tarnovo marked the opposite trend and decreased by 0.63%, so that in 2015 the relative share of higher education graduates in the District of Vidin was ahead of the District of Veliko Tarnovo. Over the same time period, an increase in the number of people in employment with higher education is observed in the Districts of Pleven by 21.15%, Vratsa - 13.25%, Dobrich - by 6.02% and Ruse - by 2.42%. As a relative share, with an exception of the District of Vidin, there is a significant increase in the Districts of Vratsa (5,12%) and Pleven (3,47%).

In general for the region, the relative share of people in employment with secondary education and secondary education with acquired qualifications was more favourable than the average for the country.

In 2015, only the Districts of Pleven, Ruse and Silistra have a relative share below the average for the country, in terms of people in employment with secondary education, and in terms of people in employment with secondary education with acquired qualification - Vidin and Dobrich.

By tracking the movement of the Absolute Number and the Relative Share of people in employment with secondary education and secondary education with acquired qualifications, there is a decrease by both indicators. There was a decline in 2015 compared to 2013 in all Districts, with an exception of Veliko Tarnovo and Ruse. In this respect, the majority of the Districts of the country follow the characteristic trend of the people in employment with secondary and secondary special education.

Relative Share of people in employment with primary and lower education is lower than the average for the country, overall for the region. In 2015 compared to 2013, there was an increase in the number of people in employment with primary and lower education in the Districts of VelikoTarnovo, Silistra, Vratsa and Dobrich. Relative share of people in employment with lower education decreased in the Districts of Vidin, Ruse and Pleven.

Logically, the highest Employment rate is of working population with higher education. It varies across the different Districts within different ranges - from 62.3% in the District of Silistra to 72.4% in the District of Vidin. In the District of Vidin, this indicator is above the average for the country by 1.1%.

In 2015, the highest Employment rate of the working population with secondary education and secondary special education was in the Districts of Dobrich - respectively 60% and 62,8% and Veliko Tarnovo respectively 59% and 62%. These Districts, by indicators, are above the country average. In 2015, the lowest Employment rate in terms of people with secondary and secondary special education was the District of Vratsa, respectively 44% and 47.7%.

The highest Employment rate of people with primary and lower education was observed in the District of Dobrich 21.9% and the lowest in Vidin - 5.7%.

Table : Hired persons in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in th. people

Year	2013	2014	2015
Country, Region, District			
Bulgaria	2511.1	2506.2	2530.8
Severozapaden region	210.7	201.7	199.8
Vidin	21.0	19.8	19.4
Vratsa	45.7	43.4	41.4
Montana	32.9	31.7	32.1
Pleven	71.1	68.8	69.4
Severen tsentralen region	252.9	247.4	254.3
Veliko Tarnovo	75.4	74.2	74.4
Ruse	79.0	76.9	76.9
Silistra	24.8	23.7	24.6
Severoiztochen region	291.0	291.2	292.5
Dobrich	49.5	48.4	47.1

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Hired persons in Romania by statistical regions and Counties in number of people

Year	2013	2014	2015
Country, Region, County			
Romania	4801104.0	4900684.0	5041186.0
South-east	531443.0	537565.0	549202.0
Constanta	176736.0	177384.0	179962.0
South Muntenia	559352.0	568382.0	581739.0
Calarasi	43334.0	43677.0	45246.0
Giurgiu	32937.0	33957.0	34132.0
Teleorman	53752.0	54637.0	54734.0
South-west Oltenia	383712.0	386941.0	392061.0
Dolj	123093.0	124577.0	127997.0
Mehedinti	42426.0	43661.0	44096.0
Olt	65541.0	66947.0	68125.0

Source: NSI Romania

Table : Hired persons by Economic activities in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in 2013 in th. people

Country, Region, District	Sector	Sector A	Sector B, C, D and E	Including sector C	Sector F	Sectors G, H and I	Sector J	Sector K	Sector L	Sectors M and N	Sectors O, P and Q	Sectors R, S, T and U
Bulgaria		87.6	638.2	542.9	152.3	662.3	69.4	58.7	24.0	212.3	530.6	75.7
Severozapaden region		11.5	67.1	55.8	9.5	40.7	1.0	1.7	1.2	13.2	59.5	5.3
Vidin		1.0	4.6	3.1	0.6	4.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.9	7.3	1.1
Vratsa		2.3	13.7	8.5	3.4	8.6	0.3	0.3	0.2	3.0	13.0	1.0
Montana		1.7	10.8	9.4	1.2	6.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	2.4	9.7	0.7
Pleven		4.9	21.5	19.0	3.4	14.1	0.3	0.7	0.5	4.5	19.7	1.4
Severen tsentralen region		16.6	88.5	82.2	10.9	57.3	1.7	2.2	1.4	11.1	56.0	7.0
Veliko Tarnovo		4.8	22.6	20.8	3.4	19.2	0.7	0.8	0.5	2.9	18.5	2.1
Ruse		4.3	29.4	27.5	3.5	19.1	0.7	1.0	0.5	3.9	14.3	2.4
Silistra		3.4	5.6	4.9	1.1	5.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.2	7.5	0.5
Severoiztochen region		17.0	60.2	50.7	22.4	86.7	3.2	4.0	3.3	21.8	63.4	9.0
Dobrich		6.4	11.3	9.9	2.4	12.7	0.2	0.3	0.4	2.8	11.4	1.5

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Hired persons by Economic activities in Romania by statistical regions and Counties of in 2013 in number of people

Country, Region, County	Romania	South- east Region	Constanta	South Muntenia	Calarasi	Giurgiu	Teleorman	South- west Oltenia	Dolj	Mehedinti	Olt
Sector											
Sector A	108228	17813	4112	21955	3768	2036	4522	8517	2695	1155	1950
Industry	1364000	148257	38748	189757	11462	6039	15280	116339	30542	11279	22609
Sector B	63344	3911	1598	11277	33	911	1384	18036	1128	708	880
Sector C	1137051	118956	26759	157735	9687	3549	11568	76899	23464	7741	19805
Sector D	59829	9366	4005	5856	369	459	367	12005	3247	1769	471
Sector E	103776	16024	6386	14889	1373	1120	1961	9399	2703	1061	1453
Sector F	368416	44293	16106	37208	3605	3143	2837	29551	6833	4716	5622
Sector G	848596	98402	35452	86447	6257	4829	8912	63281	25863	5814	8046
Sector H	272514	37368	19765	29819	2035	2724	2162	18592	6764	2451	2444
Sector I	138041	16613	7893	12176	848	293	876	10020	2714	1231	920
Sector J	137360	7684	3137	6054	425	249	480	4390	2113	273	425
Sector K	99296	7941	2884	6648	511	414	602	5448	1851	676	953
Sector L	27731	3404	1356	3102	161	229	222	2310	765	176	146
Sector M	151063	10744	3326	14566	1088	420	910	7901	3827	713	1085
Sector N	268195	25273	11769	29571	2256	2730	3357	19448	6071	1947	3233
Sector O	191274	22009	6042	25885	2648	2536	3362	19664	5940	3065	3660
Sector P	370409	41997	11106	44408	4143	3038	4910	36956	12713	4292	6908
Sector Q	341308	38120	10761	40778	3451	3604	4465	33257	11474	3700	6387
Sector R	67386	7006	2518	6920	462	454	487	5296	1914	649	798
Sector S	47287	4519	1761	4058	214	199	368	2742	1014	289	355

Source: NSI Romania

Table : Hired persons by Economic activities in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in 2014 in th. people

Country, Region, District	Sector	Sector A	Sector B, C, D and E	Including sector C	Sector F	Sectors G, H and I	Sector J	Sector K	Sector L	Sectors M and N	Sectors O, P and Q	Sectors R, S, T and U
Bulgaria		90.8	637.7	544.3	148.3	668.4	71.7	59.0	24.0	200.8	530.1	75.4
Severozapaden region		12.3	65.6	54.6	8.4	40.1	1.1	1.5	1.1	8.8	58.4	4.5
Vidin		1.1	4.6	3.2	0.6	4.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.1	7.2	0.8
Vratsa		2.3	13.1	8.0	3.1	8.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	2.1	12.7	0.9
Montana		1.9	10.5	9.0	1.2	6.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.3	9.7	0.6
Pleven		5.2	21.0	18.7	2.8	13.9	0.3	0.7	0.6	3.2	19.8	1.4
Severen tsentralen region		17.2	87.4	81.4	10.0	56.4	1.7	1.9	1.3	9.1	55.4	7.0
Veliko Tarnovo		5.1	22.9	21.0	3.1	18.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	2.4	18.2	2.1
Ruse		4.6	29.1	27.2	3.1	18.8	0.7	0.8	0.5	3.2	14.0	2.1
Silistra		3.2	5.3	4.7	1.1	5.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.9	7.1	0.5
Severoiztochen region		17.4	61.3	52.0	22.5	87.3	3.4	3.7	3.2	20.0	63.5	8.9
Dobrich		6.5	11.1	9.7	2.4	12.7	0.2	0.3	0.4	2.3	11.3	1.3

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Hired persons by Economic activities in Romania by statistical regions and Counties in 2014 in number of people

Country, Region, County	Romania	South- east Region	Constanta	South Muntenia	Calarasi	Giurgiu	Teleorman	South- west Oltenia	Dolj	Mehedinti	Olt
Sector											
Sector A	113806	19067	3896	22877	3790	2038	4722	9155	2941	1414	1936
Industry	1396293	150011	39207	192274	11648	6009	15545	115337	30339	11624	23249
Sector B	61904	3880	1550	10828	64	746	1533	16979	993	722	870
Sector C	1172332	121138	27522	161192	9993	3842	11668	76623	23440	7942	20543
Sector D	58237	8602	3820	5596	284	394	314	12348	3073	1972	544
Sector E	103820	16391	6315	14658	1307	1027	2030	9387	2833	988	1292
Sector F	376142	44851	15467	38248	3793	3116	2991	30903	7026	4966	6633
Sector G	855009	98575	36061	86984	6109	4862	8862	65548	26712	5744	8360
Sector H	271278	36322	19573	29595	2014	2917	1920	18353	6628	2612	2340
Sector I	145059	17765	7926	13005	930	441	1016	10693	2851	1435	978
Sector J	147218	7670	3215	6169	315	278	400	4948	2869	256	363
Sector K	99030	7330	2689	7026	514	457	606	5368	1824	732	933
Sector L	27560	3157	1392	3154	137	244	211	2104	696	160	109
Sector M	156074	11534	3493	14873	1188	408	1023	8196	4067	700	1008
Sector N	280112	26858	11569	30637	2427	2775	3574	17802	5440	1728	3091
Sector O	195894	22716	6170	26366	2685	2692	3477	20070	5910	3074	3746
Sector P	367712	41362	11327	43978	4041	3095	5013	36942	12692	4308	6866
Sector Q	347203	37950	10807	40760	3360	3577	4409	33300	11492	3762	6182
Sector R	69976	7212	2779	7529	422	388	512	4985	1860	683	688
Sector S	52318	5185	1813	4907	304	660	356	3237	1230	463	465

Source: NSI Romania

Table : Hired persons by Economic activities in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in 2015 in th. people

Country, Region, District	Sector	Sector A	Sector B, C, D and E	Including sector C	Sector F	Sectors G, H and I	Sector J	Sector K	Sector L	Sectors M and N	Sectors O, P and Q	Sectors R, S, T and U
Bulgaria		95.9	648.2	554.8	150.5	673.6	77.8	60.2	23.2	199.1	527.9	74.6
Severozapaden region		13.3	64.7	55.2	8.0	40.6	1.1	1.5	1.2	7.6	57.4	4.4
Vidin		1.3	4.3	3.3	0.7	4.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.2	6.9	0.6
Vratsa		2.5	12.3	7.9	2.6	8.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.5	12.3	0.8
Montana		2.1	10.5	9.1	1.2	6.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.0	9.8	0.6
Pleven		5.4	21.5	19.4	2.8	14.1	0.4	0.7	0.6	2.8	19.6	1.5
Severen tsentralen region		18.1	94.6	82.0	10.6	55.7	1.8	2.0	1.3	8.8	54.7	6.8
Veliko Tarnovo		5.5	23.5	21.9	3.7	17.5	0.7	0.6	0.5	2.3	17.9	2.2
Ruse		4.5	29.1	26.5	3.1	18.7	0.7	0.8	0.4	3.4	13.9	2.2
Silistra		3.6	5.6	4.8	1.1	5.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.9	7.4	0.4
Severoiztochen region		18.2	61.2	52.7	22.2	87.3	3.6	3.8	3.1	20.3	64.3	8.5
Dobrich		6.4	10.5	9.2	2.1	12.5	0.2	0.3	0.4	2.3	11.0	1.3

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Figure : Hired persons by Economic activities in Bulgaria in 2015

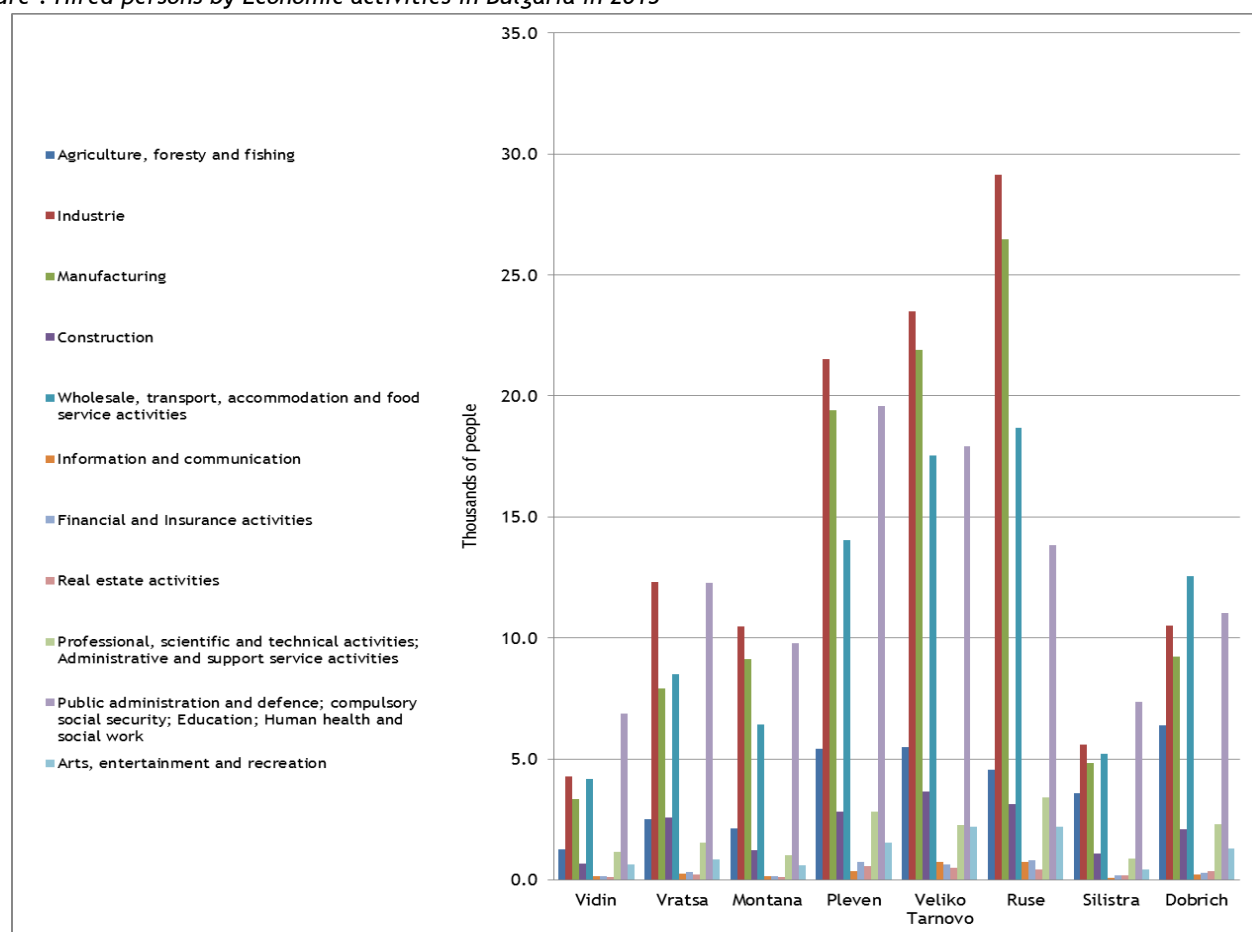


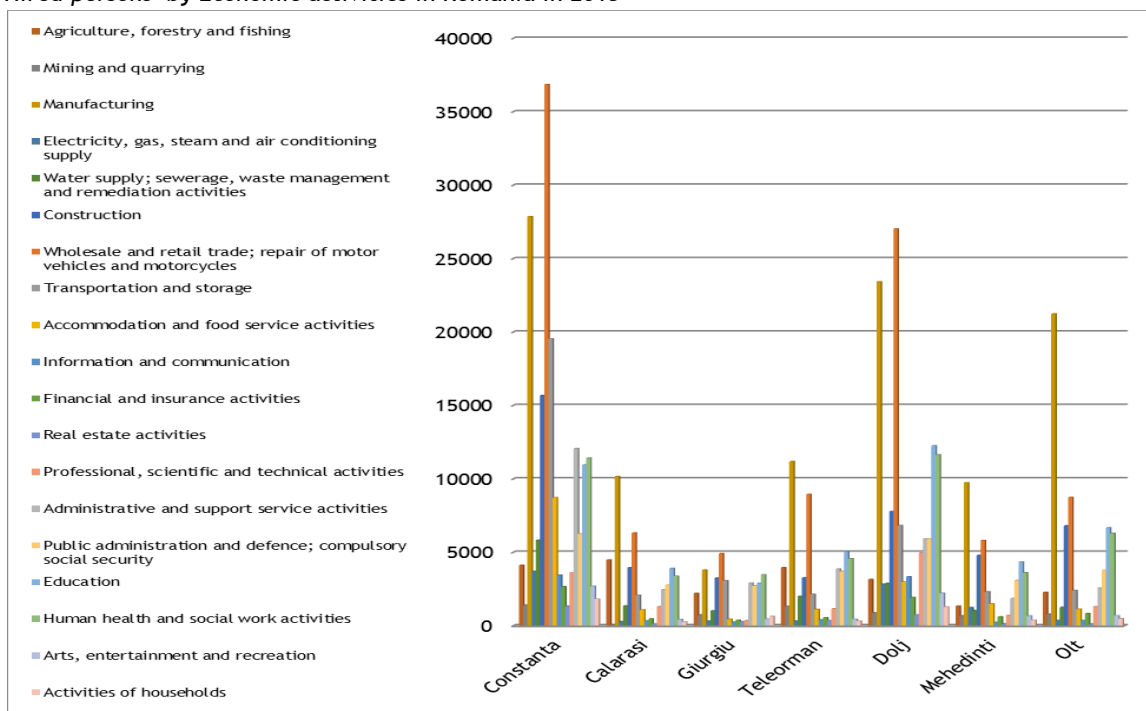
Table : Hired persons by Economic activities in Romania by statistical regions and Counties in 2015 in number of people

Country, Region, County	Romania	South- east Region	Constanta	South Muntenia	Calarasi	Giurgiu	Teleorman	South- west Oltenia	Dolj	Mehedinti	Olt
Sector											
Sector A	119107	20063	4114	23786	4486	2207	3962	9642	3155	1344	2278
Industry	1433610	149330	38791	196176	11868	5873	14855	116634	30027	12699	23644
Sector B	57429	3730	1409	9573	73	736	1333	15150	873	678	791
Sector C	1216176	121564	27862	166532	10169	3794	11179	80995	23420	9739	21233
Sector D	55111	7964	3697	5431	274	325	326	11018	2839	1248	368
Sector E	104894	16072	5823	14640	1352	1018	2017	9471	2895	1034	1252
Sector F	388213	47188	15682	39233	3949	3250	3271	32130	7783	4807	6819
Sector G	874278	101255	36849	88454	6321	4909	8957	66060	27018	5811	8739
Sector H	278856	36333	19542	31872	2087	3074	2146	18652	6822	2313	2404
Sector I	158321	19452	8721	13584	1084	442	1119	11389	2993	1494	1132
Sector J	158291	8369	3453	6493	340	254	407	5479	3341	241	364
Sector K	98776	7655	2667	6818	469	383	551	5334	1921	609	833
Sector L	28476	3223	1336	3374	132	284	353	2156	747	135	120
Sector M	163385	12037	3607	15828	1301	349	1154	9393	4964	696	1301
Sector N	292249	28294	12059	31935	2438	2909	3863	16677	5911	1861	2575
Sector O	198399	23184	6252	26792	2770	2720	3695	20110	5907	3084	3775
Sector P	363954	40914	10956	43325	3910	2889	5054	35905	12256	4339	6675
Sector Q	357912	39250	11421	41526	3385	3482	4567	33760	11644	3616	6293

Sector R	73245	7222	2691	7548	434	465	452	5382	2223	666	690
Sector S	54114	5433	1821	4995	272	642	328	3358	1285	381	483

Source: NSI Romania

Figure : Hired persons by Economic activities in Romania in 2015



In 2015, the number of persons in employment on the territory of the Bulgarian Districts from the cross-border region was 292.4 th. people, which represents 18.19% of the people in employment in the country, as a whole. The number of people in employment aged 15-64 is 283.9 th. people, or 18.1% of working-age people in employment in Bulgaria.

Over the period from 2013 to 2015, there was a steady increase in the number of people in employment at working-age.

At the same time, compared by people in employment, it was found that, simultaneously with the increase in the number of people in employment, the number of those who form 'Hired People' was decreasing. There was a decrease in 2014 compared to 2013 by 6.09% and in 2015 compared to the previous year - by 0.46%.

The analysis carried out by Districts show that the District of Veliko Tarnovo followed a continuous trend, typical for the country as a whole, of increase in the number of people in employment over the period from 2013 to 2015. The District of Vratsa is characterized by the opposite trend of constant decrease in the number of people in employment. In 2015, they decreased by 7.35%. In the rest of the Districts, the changes are in both directions. In 2015 compared to 2014, an increase is observed only in Districts of Ruse, Pleven and Vidin.

A decrease in the number of 'Hired People' as a lasting trend for the reference period is observed in the Districts of Vidin and Vratsa.

In 2015, the highest Employment rate was in the District of Veliko Tarnovo - 65%, which is 2.1% above the country average. In the rest of the Districts, the Employment rate was lower than the country average, and in 2015 its value was higher than the previous two years. To this rule an exception is observed in the District of Vratsa, where in 2015 the Employment rate was lower than the previous two years, and in the Districts of Silistra and Dobrich, for which a decrease was registered compared to the previous year.

The 'Gender structure' shows a larger number of men in employment. The largest share of men in employment is in Silistra, Dobrich and Veliko Tarnovo, and the lowest in Vidin and Ruse.

The highest Employment rate and above average for the country is in the District of Veliko Tarnovo (70.6%), in the District of Dobrich (66.4%) - for men and in the District of Ruse for women - 59.9%. For the rest of the Districts there was a predominant trend of growth by both - women and men. Vratsa and Montana are exceptions thereto. In 2015, Employment rate by women and men in these Districts has decreased, and also Silistra and Dobrich, where a decrease of the rate was registered in 2015 by men and women in Silistra and Dobrich respectively.

In 2015, the number of people in employment in the Romanian part of the cross-border region amounted to 1106.3 th. people, which represents 13.3% of the total number of people in employment in Romania.

Over the period from 2013 to 2015, there was a steady downward trend in the Absolute Number of people in employment for both the region as a whole and all the Counties therein. In this regard, the region follows the general declining trend typical for Romania. Over the period 2013-2015 the number of people in employment was gradually decreasing which was typical for all the counties, as the paces of decline were higher in 2015 vs. 2014 compared to the previous year. In 2015, the largest decrease in the number of persons in employment was for the Counties of Teleorman, Giurgiu and Călărași, respectively 6.33%, 5.31% and 4.18%. In addition to the absolute amount of people in employment in the cross-border region, their relative share in the total number of people employed in Romania also decreased. Relative Share of people in employment in the cross-border counties decreased from 13.7% in 2013 to 13.6% in 2014 and 13.3% in 2015.

Only in terms of 'Hired People' the trend was reversed. Their number was constantly increasing over the period 2013-2015. This dependency is valid for all the Counties. The largest increase in 2014 compared to the previous year was observed in Giurgiu (3.1%), Mehedinți (2.9%) and Olt (2.15%), and in 2015 in Călărași (3.59%) and Dolj - 2.75%.

The trend of growth in the number of 'Hired People' is the opposite to the decrease in 'Hired People' typical for the Bulgarian cross-border region.

The characteristics of the 'Gender Structure' of persons in employment in the Romanian Counties are similar to those typical for the Bulgarian Districts. In 2015, the share of men in employment was greater than the share of women in employment in all the Counties. Over the previous years, only the County of Călărași had a higher share of people in employment, 51.22% in 2013 and 51.15% in 2014.

In 2015, the highest share of men in employment was in the Counties of Constanta - 58.3%, Dolj - 54.26% and Olt - 53.98%.

The highest Employment rate and above the country average was in the Counties of Teleorman - 72.4% and Mehedinți - 65.7%. Its lowest value was in Giurgiu - 49.8%. Over the period 2014-2015,

there was a decrease in the Employment rate in all the Counties, with an exception of Constanța. In the County of Constanța, the Employment rate was showing a lasting increase of 60.1% in 2013, 65% in 2014 and 65.3% in 2015.

It is noteworthy that in most Counties the Employment rate by Women was larger than that by Men. Constanta and Dolj, being more developed, are the only exceptions where the Employment rate by Men was higher than that of Women over the three reference years.

The analysis of employment carried out by sectors show that the largest relative share of people in employment in both the Bulgarian Districts and in the Romanian Counties of the cross-border region was in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. This is a typical trend for the whole reference period.

In 2015, in all the Bulgarian Districts, the share of people in employment in this sector was above the country average. The highest value was in the District of Silistra - 47.45%. The lowest share of people in employment in this sector was in the District of Ruse - 19.5%.

In 2015, in the Romanian Counties, the Relative Share of people in employment in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Sector was higher than the average for the country, with the exception of the County of Constanța, where the value of this indicator was 18.53%. The largest share of people in employment in the Agrarian Sector was in the County of Teleorman, where they form almost half of the people in employment 49.5%. In Călărași, Olt and Giurgiu People in employment in this sector are more than 40%. In 2015, in terms of Relative Share of people in employment by regions, the values in the Romanian Counties are higher than the Bulgarian ones; but in terms of Percentage of people in employment in that sector, compared to the people in employment in the same sector in the respective parts of the Bulgarian cross-border Districts, 26,7% of people in employment in the whole country and in the Romanian Counties - 19,7% worked therein.

Relative Share of people in employment in the Industrial Sector is lower - 17.89% of all persons in employment in the Bulgarian Districts worked in that sector within the country and 10.09% in the Romanian cross-border Counties. The relative share of people in employment in this sector in all the Romanian Counties is lower than the average for the country, as the highest share is in Olt (20.76%) and Constanța (17.91%). The relative share of people in employment in this sector is below the country average in three Bulgarian Districts only. In all others, their share is above the country average. The largest share is in the District of Ruse - 30.04%. In this District only, the share of people in employment in the Industry is higher than that of the people in employment in the Agriculture, as 91.17% of them are employed in the Processing Industry.

The Relative Share of people in employment in Construction in the Romanian Counties is significantly higher than that in the Bulgarian Districts. In 2015, their share was above the average for Romania in three of the Counties - Constanța (11.1%), Mehedinți (8.66%) and Giurgiu (8.15%). In the Bulgarian Districts, the highest share of people in employment in Construction is shown in the District of Veliko Tarnovo - 4.55%. The lowest share of people in employment in this sector is in Vidin - 2,44% and for the Romanian part of the cross-border region - in Teleorman (2,77%).

In the Sector of 'Trade, Transport and Hotel Management', the Relative Share of people in employment in the County of Constanța is 29.5%, which is 7.6% above the Romanian average. Also, in this sector, the Relative Share of people in employment was high in the County of Dolj - 20.1% and the lowest in Olt -14.04%.

Among the Bulgarian Districts, there is no Relative Share of people in employment above the country average. In 2015, the highest share of people in employment in this sector was in the Districts of Ruse

(23.48%) and Veliko Tarnovo (21.81%). The smallest share of people in employment was in Silistra - 15.64%.

The share of People in employment in the Sectors of 'Creation and dissemination of information and creative products, telecommunications', 'Financial and insurance activities' and 'Real estate activities' in both parts of the cross-border region was very small. In the Bulgarian Districts, people in employment do not reach one percent. In the Romanian Counties, people employed in the Sectors of 'Real Estate Operations' and 'Financial and Insurance Activities' are also under one percent in all the Counties. In the sector of 'Creation and dissemination of information and creative products and telecommunications', the share of people in employment in Constanța is 1.87%, Dolj - 1.33% and Olt - 1.16%.

In the Group of Sectors: 'Government', 'Education', 'Human health and social work', it is noticeable that the relative share of people in employment in the Bulgarian Districts was higher than that in the Romanian Counties. In six of the Bulgarian Districts, the Relative Share of people in employment in these Sectors was above the country average and in 2015 the highest values were in the District of Vidin - 22,29%, Vratsa - 20,12%, Pleven - 19, 93% and Montana - 19.78%. The lowest Relative Share of people in employment in this sector is in the District of Ruse (14.2%). In the Romanian Counties, the highest share of people in employment in these sectors is in the County of Dolj - 12.58%, mostly at the expense of the people in employment in the field of education.

The Relative Share of people in employment in the Sectors of 'Professional activities and scientific research' and 'Administrative and support activities' was below the average for the respective countries in the Romanian and in the Bulgarian part of the cross-border region.

In 2015, the highest share of the Bulgarian Districts is in the District of Ruse - 4,10% and of the Romanian Counties - in Constanta - 5,57%.

If employment trends by sectors are tracked over the period 2013-2015, there were no significant changes as the ratios remain approximately constant at the beginning and end of the period.

Over the period 2013-2015, in the Romanian counties, the dependency between 'Hired People' and 'People in employment' showed that the share of 'Hired People' compared to the 'People in employment' by Counties has decreased. In 2015, the Counties with the highest percentage of 'Hired People' are Constanta - 59.89% and Dolj - with 51.45%. The lowest share of 'Hired People', compared to 'People in employment' was in Teleorman - 34.84% and Giurgiu 37.47%.

In 2015 compared to 2013, in the Bulgarian Districts, the share of 'People in employment' has decreased in Vratsa, Montana, Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo and Dobrich. In the Bulgarian Districts, compared to the Romanian Counties, the levels are higher. In 2015, the highest share of 'Hired People' compared to the 'People in employment' was in the Districts of Ruse - 76,19% and Veliko Tarnovo - 68,92, and the lowest share was in the Districts of Silistra - 53,71% and Dobrich - 58,55%.

3.1.4.2. Unemployed persons and Unemployment rate

Table: Unemployed persons aged 15 and over in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts and by Sex in th. people

Country, Region, District	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Unemployed	Men	Women	Unemployed	Men	Women	Unemployed	Men	Women
Bulgaria		436.3	249.8	186.5	384.5	221.4	163.1	305.1	174.2	130.9
Severozapaden region		46.3	28.6	17.7	46.4	28.9	17.5	38.5	23.1	15.4

Vidin	7.2	4.5	2.7(u)	9.1	6.2	3.0(u)	7.7	5.0	2.7(u)
Vratsa	10.7	6.6	4.0	13.3	8.2	5.1	12.1	7.0	5.1
Montana	9.7	6.5	3.2(u)	9.7	5.5	4.2	4.2	2.5(u)	1.7(u)
Pleven	13.4	8.2	5.1	9.3	6.1	3.2(u)	10.0	5.8	4.2
Severen tsentralen region	56.9	33.5	23.5	48.5	29.2	19.3	38.9	22.4	16.5
Veliko Tarnovo	18.3	10.5	7.8	13.5	7.6	5.9	7.9	3.6(u)	4.2
Ruse	12.7	7.0	5.7	10.4	6.3	4.2	8.9	4.8	4.1
Silistra	10.1	6.9	3.2(u)	11.1	7.0	4.0	10.2	6.4	3.9(u)
Severoiztochen region	74.9	41.2	33.7	56.3	31.6	24.8	46.4	24.0	22.4
Dobrich	14.1	9.1	5.0	12.8	7.7	5.1	12.0	5.8	6.1

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table: Unemployed persons aged 15 and over in Romania by statistical regions and Counties and by Sex in number of people

Country	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Unemployed	Men	Women	Unemployed	Men	Women	Unemployed	Men	Women
Romania		512333	296552	215781	478338	278453	199885	436242	251504	184738
South-east		72038	42030	30008	72714	42924	29790	68896	40323	28573
Constanta		13482	6016	7466	11978	5419	6559	10907	4755	6152
South Muntenia		94740	56194	38546	89831	52925	36906	79267	46305	32962
Calarasi		8817	5373	3444	8599	5261	3338	7232	4177	3055
Giurgiu		5822	3286	2536	6510	3448	3062	5723	3027	2696
Teleorman		18664	11639	7025	18888	11725	7163	18535	11551	6984
South-west Oltenia		79142	46569	32573	72839	43070	29769	70352	41527	28825
Dolj		28229	16474	11755	26755	15912	10843	26172	15348	10824
Mehedinti		12295	7564	4731	11464	6882	4582	12219	7474	4745
Olt		14538	9024	5514	14435	8921	5514	13695	8363	5332

Source: NSI Romania

Table: Unemployed persons at working-age in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts and by Sex in th. people

Country	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Unemployed	Men	Women	Unemployed	Men	Women	Unemployed	Men	Women
Bulgaria		433.2	248.3	185.0	381.3	219.8	161.5	302.5	172.6	129.9
Severozapaden region		45.9	28.5	17.4	45.6	28.6	17.1	37.7	22.6	15.1
Vidin		7.0	4.4	2.6(u)	9.0	6.1	2.8(u)	7.4	4.8	2.7(u)
Vratsa		10.7	6.6	4.0	13.0	8.1	4.9	11.8	6.9	5.0
Montana		9.6	6.5	3.1(u)	9.7	5.5	4.2	4.1	2.4(u)	1.6(u)
Pleven		13.3	8.2	5.1	9.1	6.0	3.1(u)	9.9	5.8	4.1
Severen tsentralen region		56.5	33.2	23.3	48.3	29.2	19.1	38.6	22.2	16.4
Veliko Tarnovo		17.9	10.3	7.7	13.4	7.6	5.8	7.7	3.5(u)	4.2

Ruse	12.7	7.0	5.7	10.4	6.3	4.2	8.8	4.7	4.1
Silistra	10.1	6.9	3.2(u)	11.0	7.0	4.0	10.2	6.3	3.9(u)
Severoiztochen region	74.3	41.2	33.2	55.7	31.2	24.5	46.0	23.7	22.3
Dobrich	14.0	9.1	4.9	12.5	7.5	5.1	11.9	5.8	6.1

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table: Unemployment rate of the population aged 15 and over in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts and by Sex as a percentage

Country, District	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Unemployment rate	Men	Women	Unemployment rate	Men	Women	Unemployment rate	Men	Women
Bulgaria		12.9	13.9	11.8	11.4	12.3	10.4	9.1	9.8	8.4
Severozapaden region		14.0	16.0	11.6	14.2	16.6	11.5	12.1	13.5	10.5
Vidin		17.7	20.1	14.8(u)	22.2	27.3	15.9(u)	18.8	22.6	14.2(u)
Vratsa		14.9	16.9	12.3	18.1	20.4	15.3	17.7	18.7	16.4
Montana		16.7	20.3	12.3(u)	16.3	17.5	15.0	8.2	9.1(u)	7.1(u)
Pleven		12.1	13.9	10.1	9.0	11.2	6.5(u)	9.2	10.0	8.2
Severen tsentralen region		15.3	16.5	13.9	13.2	14.5	11.7	10.6	11.2	9.8
Veliko Tarnovo		16.2	17.3	14.8	11.7	12.4	11.0	6.8	5.8(u)	8.0
Ruse		12.5	12.9	12.0	10.8	12.0	9.3	9.0	9.4	8.6
Silistra		21.3	24.6	16.6(u)	22.4	24.1	20.1	21.8	23.6	19.4(u)
Severoiztochen region		16.8	17.1	16.5	12.6	13.0	12.2	10.3	9.7	10.9
Dobrich		15.8	18.7	12.3	14.3	15.8	12.5	13.8	12.3	15.6

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table: Unemployment rate of the population at working-age in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts as a percentage

Country, Region, District	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Unemployment rate	Men	Women	Unemployment rate	Men	Women	Unemployment rate	Men	Women
Bulgaria		13.0	14.1	11.9	11.5	12.5	10.4	9.2	9.9	8.5
Severozapaden region		14.1	16.1	11.6	14.2	16.7	11.4	12.1	13.6	10.5
Vidin		17.5	20.2	14.3(u)	22.2	27.6	15.6(u)	18.6	22.2	14.5(u)
Vratsa		14.9	17.1	12.3	17.9	20.3	14.9	17.6	18.7	16.2
Montana		17.0	20.5	12.5(u)	16.6	17.8	15.3	8.2	9.1(u)	7.1(u)
Pleven		12.2	14.0	10.1	8.9	11.1	6.4(u)	9.4	10.3	8.3
Severen tsentralen region		15.5	16.7	14.0	13.4	14.8	11.7	10.7	11.4	9.9
Veliko Tarnovo		16.3	17.5	14.9	11.9	12.8	11.0	6.8	5.8(u)	8.0
Ruse		12.5	13.0	12.0	10.9	12.2	9.3	9.0	9.4	8.6
Silistra		21.5	24.7	16.7(u)	22.7	24.3	20.3	22.1	23.9	19.7(u)
Severoiztochen region		16.9	17.3	16.5	12.7	13.1	12.3	10.4	9.8	11.1
Dobrich		16.0	19.0	12.3	14.4	15.9	12.7	14.0	12.7	15.7

Figure: Movement of the Unemployment rate

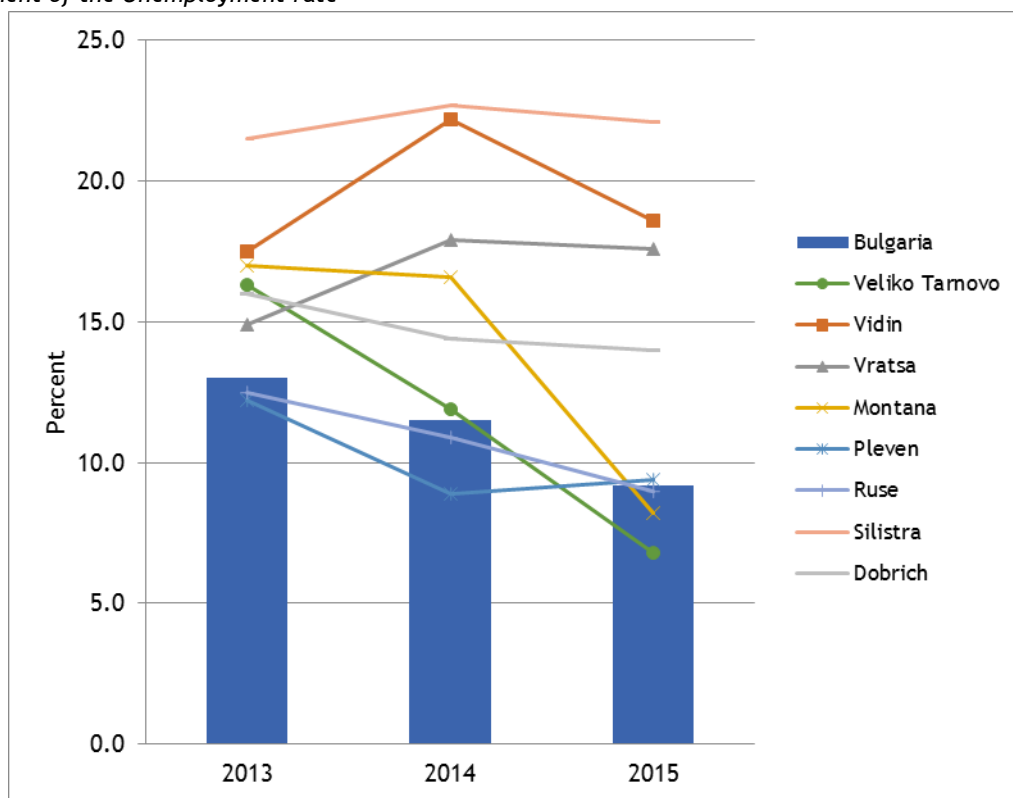


Table: Unemployment rate of the population at working-age in Romania by statistical regions and Counties as a percentage

Country, Region, County	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Unemployment rate	Men	Women	Unemployment rate	Men	Women	Unemployment rate	Men	Women
Romania		5.7	6.2	5.1	5.4	5.9	4.8	5.0	5.3	4.6
South-east		6.7	7.3	6.0	6.9	7.5	6.1	6.6	7.0	6.1
Constanta		4.4	3.5	5.5	4.0	3.2	4.8	3.6	2.7	4.9
South Muntenia		7.5	8.3	6.6	7.3	8.0	6.5	6.6	7.2	6.0
Calarasi		8.2	10.0	6.4	8.2	10.1	6.4	7.3	8.2	6.3
Giurgiu		6.2	6.8	5.6	7.0	7.1	6.9	6.5	6.6	6.4
Teleorman		10.8	12.9	8.5	11.2	13.4	8.8	11.6	13.8	9.3
South-west Oltenia		8.7	9.6	7.7	8.2	9.1	7.2	8.2	8.9	7.3
Dolj		9.7	10.7	8.6	9.4	10.5	8.2	9.5	10.2	8.7
Mehedinti		10.5	12.2	8.5	10.0	11.3	8.5	11.0	12.8	9.0

Olt	8.2	9.9	6.4	8.2	9.7	6.6	8.1	9.4	6.7
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Source: NSI Romania

Figure: Movement of the Unemployment rate

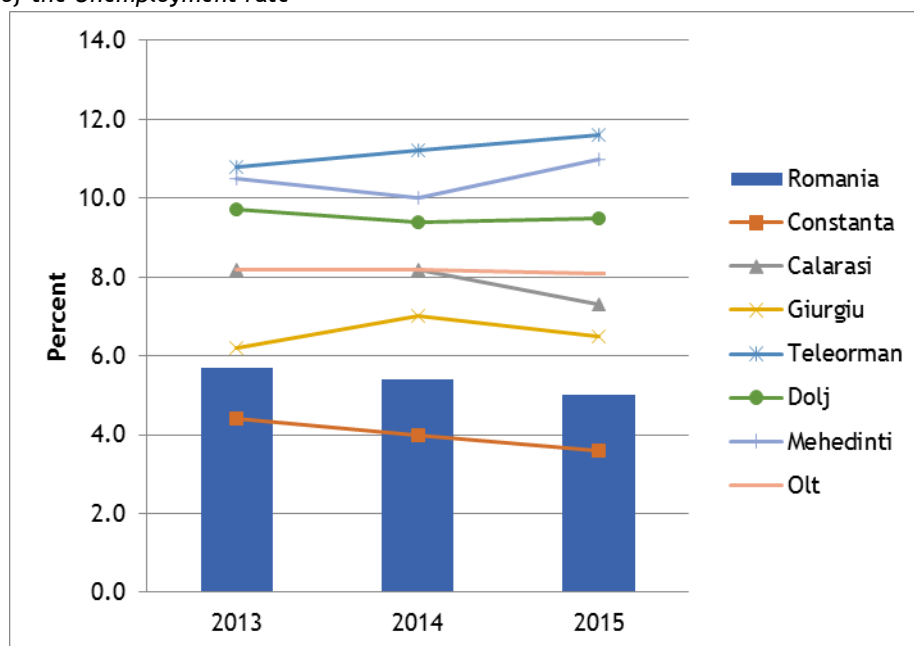


Table: Unemployed persons registered at the Labour Office in Bulgaria by statistical regions and districts in number of people and by fields of Professional Qualification up to 29 years of age in 2013

Country, District		Bulgaria	Vidin	Vratsa	Montana	Pleven	Veliko Tarnovo	Ruse	Silistra	Dobrich
Total		73477	1683	3371	2488	3548	2121	1726	1439	1796
Professional degree		13849	320	735	628	921	364	429	345	357
Specialists		15723	204	669	359	838	696	429	249	289
Field of education	Education	418	4	18	4	16	23	19	12	9
	Arts and humanities	545	9	13	5	13	33	18	12	8
	Business, administration and law	4710	78	180	106	247	302	140	98	137
	Mathematics and social science	707	8	23	12	21	25	21	12	19
	Technologies	3964	48	230	104	300	159	108	58	41
	Agriculture	924	14	97	30	99	45	18	26	23
	Health and welfare	270	2	3	6	19	13	11	6	4

	Services	4185	41	105	92	123	96	94	25	48
	Without profession	43905	1159	1967	1501	1789	1061	868	845	1150

Source: Employment Agency Bulgaria

Table : Unemployed persons registered at the Labour Office in Bulgaria by statistical regions and districts in number of people and by fields of Professional Qualification up to 29 years of age in 2014

Country, District		Bulgaria	Vidin	Vratsa	Montana	Pleven	Veliko Tarnovo	Ruse	Silistra	Dobrich
Total		58771	1525	2925	2153	2734	1691	1202	1061	1565
Professional degree		10193	256	561	463	668	273	309	225	303
Specialists		13692	206	642	268	732	604	337	240	275
Field of education	Education	383	2	25	3	12	18	9	10	5
	Arts and humanities	485	12	14	3	10	37	9	10	6
	Business, administration and law	4958	95	193	80	257	299	131	119	150
	Mathematics and social science	644	10	23	14	19	20	19	9	15
	Technologies	3069	34	219	90	249	124	65	48	34
	Agriculture	685	12	67	24	64	35	7	18	10
	Health and welfare	254	4	4	4	15	11	2	2	6
	Services	3214	37	97	50	106	60	95	24	49
Without profession		34886	1063	1722	1422	1334	814	556	596	987

Source: Employment Agency Bulgaria

Table : Unemployed persons registered at the Labour Office in Bulgaria by statistical regions and districts in number of people and by fields of Professional Qualification up to 29 years of age in 2015

Country, District		Bulgaria	Vidin	Vratsa	Montana	Pleven	Veliko Tarnovo	Ruse	Silistra	Dobrich
Total		49886	1384	2429	1893	2434	1450	1080	921	1209
Professional degree		8527	227	479	418	602	240	298	186	253
Specialists		11844	158	479	242	639	515	290	210	256
Field of education	Education	437	5	17	5	15	14	20	10	13
	Arts and humanities	452	3	5	2	13	34	6	12	4
	Business, administration and law	4647	66	189	88	253	259	123	87	134
	Mathematics and social science	591	8	20	14	12	17	18	10	13
	Technologies	2537	27	145	55	204	109	66	39	35
	Agriculture	502	10	37	25	42	25	5	20	9

	<i>Health and welfare</i>	257	3	10	9	19	11	5	1	7
	<i>Services</i>	2421	36	56	44	81	46	47	31	41
	<i>Without profession</i>	<i>Without profession</i>	999	1471	1233	1193	695	492	525	700

Source: Employment Agency Bulgaria

In 2015, 23.48% of unemployed people in Bulgaria aged 15 and over lived on the territory of the Bulgarian part of the cross-border region, 56% of which men and 44% of women. Over the period 2013-2015, the absolute number of unemployed people in the cross-border region was decreasing. The largest decrease in the movement by Districts was recorded in Veliko Tarnovo, in 2014 compared to 2013 - by 26.22% and in 2015 compared to 2014 - by 41.48%. A constant trend of decrease is still observed in the Districts of Ruse and Dobrich. In the District of Pleven, there was a strong decline - by almost 31% in 2014 compared to 2013, then in 2015 the number of unemployed increased by 7.6%. In all the other Districts, the number of unemployed people increased in 2014 compared to 2013 and decreased in 2015 compared to the previous year. In 2015, in all the Districts, the pace of decline were lower than the country average, with the exception of Veliko Tarnovo, where the decline was almost twice larger the average for the country.

In 2013 and 2014, the 'Gender Structure' of unemployed people aged 15 and above showed that the share of unemployed men was higher than the share of women in all the Districts. In 2015, the ratio was the same for all the Districts, except for the Districts of Veliko Tarnovo and Dobrich, where the share of unemployed men was smaller - 45.57% and 48.33%, respectively.

Simultaneously with the decrease in the Absolute Number of unemployed people aged 15 and above, the unemployment rate for the same age was also decreasing. In 2014, compared to the previous year, the unemployment rate has decreased in all the Districts, with the exception of Vidin, Vratsa and Silistra. In 2015 compared to 2014, the rate has increased only in the District of Pleven with a minimum of 0.2%. There was a decrease in all the other Districts. The highest decrease was in the District of Veliko Tarnovo - by 4.9%.

In 2015, the highest Unemployment rate was in the Districts of Silistra (21.8%), Vidin (18.8%) and Vratsa (17.7%), and the lowest in Veliko Tarnovo (6.8%) Montana (8.2%) and Ruse (9.0). In these Districts, the ratio was below the average for the country.

The same dependencies are observed in terms of the Absolute Number and the Unemployment rate of the working-age population (aged 15-64) in the Bulgarian Districts of the cross-border region.

The data on unemployed people in the Romanian Counties of the cross-border region are very similar to the situation in the Bulgarian Districts.

In 2014 compared to 2013, the absolute number of unemployed people registered in almost all the Districts has decreased. The County of Giurgiu, where the number of unemployed people increased by 11.82%, and Teleorman - by 1.2% are an exception to this rule. In 2015, the trends for these two Counties reversed. In 2015 compared to the previous year, there was an increase in the number of unemployed people by 6.59% in the County of Mehedinti only.

In terms of the 'Gender Structure' of Unemployed people, the Relative Share of men in the reference period is higher than that of women in all the Counties, with the exception of Constanta. In Constanta, the Relative Share of registered unemployed women in 2013 was 55.38%. In the next years, their share has increased from 54.76% in 2014 to 56.4% in 2015.

In general, the Unemployment rate in the Romanian Counties is higher than the average for the country. In the three reference years, an exception to this rule exists only in the County of Constanța, where the rate is lower than the average values in Romania.

In 2014 compared to 2013 the dynamics of the rate showed that, it was decreasing in Mehedinți, Constanța and Dolj by 0.5%, 0.4% and 0.3%, respectively. In Călărași and Olt it was kept at the same level and in Giurgiu and Teleorman - it was increasing at a rate above the average for the country (0.3%).

In 2015 compared to 2014, the Unemployment rate has decreased in Constanta, Calarasi, Giurgiu and Olt. In the other Counties it was increasing, as the largest rate was recorded in the County of Mehedinti - 1%.

Table : Unemployed persons registered at the Labour Offices in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts and by field of education

Country, District		Bulgaria	Vidin	Vratsa	Montana	Pleven	Veliko Tarnovo	Ruse	Silistra
Year									
2013	Tertiary	8210	79	252	126	279	417	281	165
	Secondary	31558	761	1676	1154	1810	1003	819	593
	Secondary vocational	20425	432	1113	800	1430	626	553	412
	Primary	11148	349	541	470	464	306	209	213
	Basic and lower	22561	494	902	738	995	395	417	468
2014	Tertiary	8337	113	281	98	285	384	258	186
	Secondary	23622	592	1326	896	1369	787	541	384
	Secondary vocational	14899	337	889	599	1070	473	366	263
	Primary	8769	236	480	428	414	240	141	161
	Basic and lower	18043	584	838	731	666	280	262	330
2015	Tertiary	7545	81	229	122	282	334	227	149
	Secondary	20322	542	1083	755	1235	687	526	370
	Secondary vocational	12287	290	710	505	924	399	346	240
	Primary	7637	236	468	392	374	201	130	121
	Basic and lower	14382	525	649	624	543	228	197	281

Source: Employment Agency Bulgaria

Table : Unemployed persons registered at the Labour Offices in in Romania by statistical regions and Counties and by field of education

Country, Region, County	Year	2013			2014			2015		
		Tertiery	Secondary	Primary	Tertiery	Secondary	Primary	Tertiery	Secondary	Primary
Romania		36507	119813	356013	28916	92050	357372	22059	78641	335542
South-east		3685	13812	54541	3006	11197	58511	2194	9619	57083
Constanta		1066	3358	9058	819	2526	8633	690	2092	8125

South Muntenia	4645	21657	68438	3424	16638	69769	2500	13359	63408
Calarasi	265	1671	6881	181	1340	7078	140	942	6150
Giurgiu	208	1490	4124	233	1606	4671	143	1203	4377
Teleorman	414	3068	15182	315	2641	15932	279	2738	15518
South-west Oltenia	5195	19777	54170	3867	13515	55457	2844	14493	53015
Dolj	1674	4560	21995	1160	3708	21887	907	3836	21429
Mehedinti	543	2667	9085	376	1969	9119	498	2546	9175
Olt	649	3974	9915	743	1557	12135	347	2700	10648

Source: NSI Romania and own calculations

According to the data of the Employment Agency on the unemployed people up to the age of 29 in Bulgaria registered at the Labour Offices, there were 18,172 unemployed people registered in the territory of the cross-border Districts in 2013, being 24.73% of all unemployed people registered in the country.

In the years to come, their absolute numbers were decreasing and in 2015 they were 12,800. Despite the decrease in their absolute number by almost 30%, as a relative share compared to the unemployed people up to 29 years registered in Bulgaria, they have increased to 25.66%.

Over the reference period, their absolute number decreased in all the Districts. In 2015, the highest decrease and above the country average was in the Districts of Dobrich (22.75%) and Vratsa (16.96%). The lowest decrease in the number of unemployed people was in the District of Vidin (9.25%).

The professional structure of unemployed people up to 29 years of age registered in all the Districts show that the largest share was in the group of "Without specialty and profession". In 2015, the most unemployed people of this Group were in Vidin - 72% and Montana - 65%, and the smallest share was in the District of Ruse - 46%.

In 2015, in half of the Districts, the Relative share of registered unemployed people up to 29 years with work-related professions was lower than the registered "specialists". In another part, such as Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo, Silistra and Dobrich, the Relative share of unemployed "specialists" up to 29 years was higher.

If the trends are tracked by years for the reference Districts, in 2015, the relative share of unemployed people with work-related professions has increased in all the Districts, with an exception of Vidin and Silistra.

The Relative share of registered specialists in 2014 compared to 2013 has also increased, with an exception of the District of Montana. In 2015, the downward trend of their relative share has prevailed. Districts with a higher relative share compared to the previous period are Dobrich, Silistra and Montana.

The unemployed people without a specialty and profession in the different Districts marked different trends. Over the period 2013-2015, there were lasting downward trends in Veliko Tarnovo, Ruse and Dobrich and upward trends of their relative share - in Vidin and Vratsa.

In 2015, the highest relative share of registered unemployed specialists aged up to 29 years old was of those graduated in the fields of "Society, Economy, Law" and "Engineering and Technology". The highest share of unemployed persons registered with education in the fields of "Society, Economy, Law" was in the Districts of Dobrich - 52.34%, Veliko Tarnovo - 50.29%, and Ruse - 42.41%. In almost all the Districts, the Relative share of unemployed people in this group was higher than the average

for the country. The District of Montana is the only exception, where the share was 36.36%, i.e. by 2.88% lower than the average for the country.

In 2015, the largest share and above the country average of unemployed people up to 29 years old registered with education in the field of "Equipment and technologies" was in Districts of Pleven - 31.92%, Vratsa - 30.27% Ruse - 22.76% and Montana -22.73%.

The highest relative share of unemployed people registered with education in the field of Agriculture was in Montana -10.33%, Silistra - 9.52% and Vratsa -7.72%.

The educational structure of unemployed people up to 29 years old registered at the Labour Offices, showed that their absolute number was decreasing over the period 2013-2015 at all levels of education.

In 2015, the highest relative share is to those registered with secondary education. Almost in all the Districts, their share was above the average for the country. The values in the Districts of Vidin (39,16%), Montana (39,88%) and Silistra (40,13%) were below the average for the country. The relative share of those with secondary special education is higher than those with secondary education and they form 74.82% in the District of Pleven. The share of unemployed people up to 29 years registered with university education is the lowest. In different Districts, the ratios are different - the highest relative share of with higher education up to 29 years old are registered in Veliko Tarnovo (23,03%) and Ruse (21,02%). The lowest relative share is in Vidin (5.85%) and Montana - 6.44%

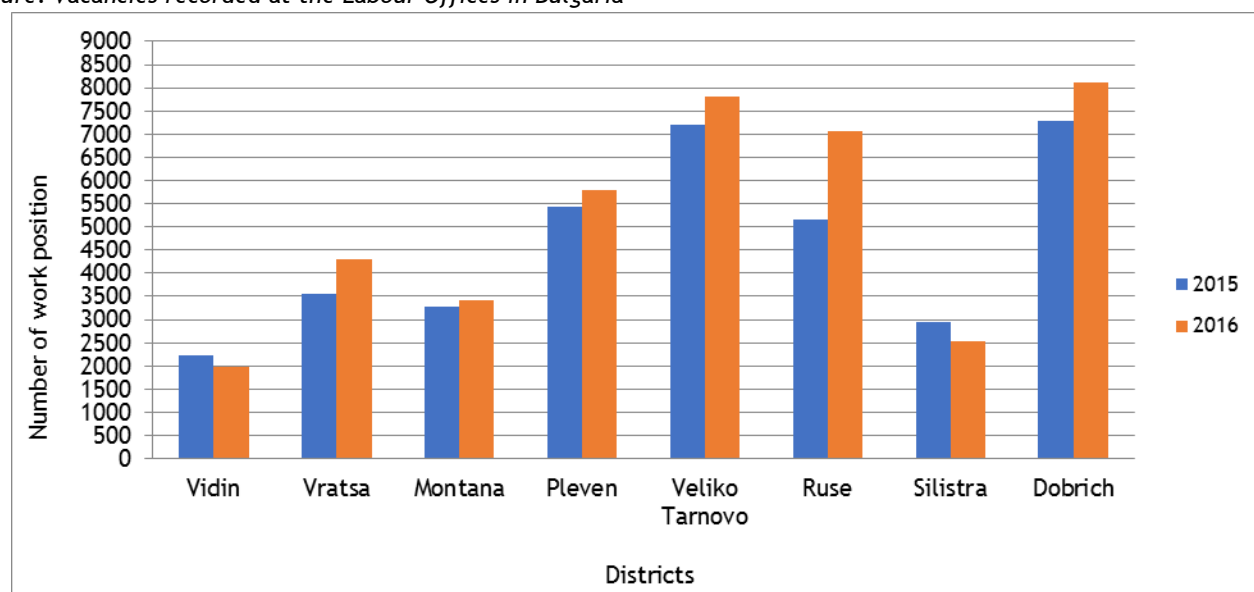
3.1.4.3. Vacancies

Table: Vacancies recorded at the Labour Offices in Bulgaria

Year	Country, District	Bulgaria	Vidin	Vratsa	Montana	Pleven	Veliko Tarnovo	Ruse	Silistra	Dobrich
2015		174 906	2 237	3 562	3 264	5 421	7 210	5 162	2 937	7 284
2016		196276	1989	4306	3415	5790	7816	7050	2537	8118

Source: Employment Agency Bulgaria

Figure: Vacancies recorded at the Labour Offices in Bulgaria



In 2015, the structure of vacancies at the Labour Offices showed that in all Districts of the cross-border region in Bulgaria, there were 37077 vacancies recorded, being 21.2% of all vacancies in the

country. The trend was that their number would increase in the next 2016. The largest average annual number of vacancies in 2015 was registered in the Districts of Dobrich and VelikoTarnovo, 7284 and 7210 respectively. The lowest number of vacancies registered was in Vidin - 2237. In the next 2016, there was an increase in the absolute number of vacancies, except for the District of Silistra, where they decreased by 400 and Vidin - by 248.

3.1.4.4. Labour Income

Table : Average gross wages in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in BGN

Country, District	Year	2013	2014	2015
Bulgaria		9301	9860	10535
Vidin		7449	7888	8365
Vratsa		6195	6663	7011
Montana		9383	9861	10332
Pleven		6995	7449	7971
Veliko Tarnovo		7046	7400	7892
Ruse		7474	7925	8418
Silistra		7262	7662	8213
Dobrich		7589	8028	8563
Bulgaria		6880	7215	7494
Vidin		8205	8601	9234
Vratsa		7164	7581	8084

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Figure : Movement in average gross wages in Bulgaria

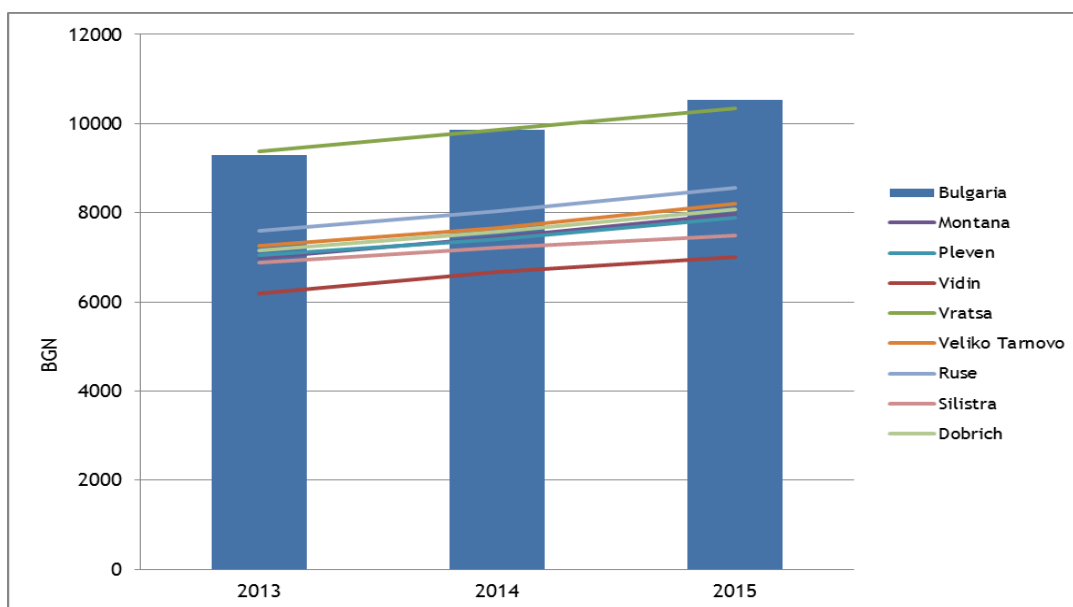


Table : Movement in average gross wages in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in 2013

Sector	Country, Region, District	Bulgaria	Severo-zapaden Region	Vidin	Vratsa	Montana	Pleven	Severen Tsentralen Region	Veliko Tarnovo	Ruse	Silistra	Severo-iztochen Region	Dobrich
Agriculture, forestry and fishing		7682	7142	6414	7321	7744	7241	8383	8668	8683	7799	8289	9120
Mining and quarrying		14938	9393	10000	8779	10086	9163	8392	6932	7658	..	11388	..
Manufacturing		7906	6731	5546	6827	6742	6643	7594	7036	7327	6405	8062	6067
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply		18546	23561	..	..	14420	13805	12804	11391	14458	..	14284	22433
Water supply		8585	6903	5900	6906	6397	7507	7890	7570	8751	7667	8192	6392
Construction		7998	8528	5689	12456	7060	6375	6396	6063	6098	7086	7423	6095
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles		8141	5255	4768	4927	5636	5337	5960	5671	6613	5302	6401	6337
Transport and storage		9093	5933	5998	5850	5689	6235	7379	7036	8481	6378	11071	6306
Accommodation and food service activities		5751	4699	4130	4422	4691	4984	4541	4402	4520	4477	6237	6602
Information and communication		21988	6570	6410	5609	6357	5890	8869	8535	10014	6163	11859	8724
Financial and Insurance activities		18034	12343	10947	12077	11241	13177	12095	12768	12416	9464	14388	9415
Real estate activities		9124	6416	5663	6500	7038	6482	6627	6269	6928	6310	7378	6614
Professional, scientific and		13247	6050	5142	6351	5339	6086	6988	8656	6206	5286	9225	6611

technical activities												
Administrative and support service activities	6227	4288	3996	4213	4243	4384	4709	4865	4660	4593	5567	4942
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	11317	9459	8892	9269	9713	9522	9903	10215	9852	9536	10123	9975
Education	9426	8378	8063	8278	8112	8672	8816	9468	8730	8199	9533	8639
Human health and social work activities	9685	8317	6576	8091	8163	9338	8202	7598	9516	7575	9618	8194
Arts, entertainment and recreation	8145	7464	5994	6925	7080	5918	8770	5745	5954	5763	6721	6088
Activities of households as employers	6302	5100	5298	5497	5321	4712	5289	5251	5593	4551	5180	5332

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Average monthly nominal gross wages in Romania by statistical regions and Counties in 2013

Country, Region, County	Romania	South-east Region	Constanta	South Muntenia	Calarasi	Giurgiu	Teleorman	South-west Oltenia	Dolj	Mehedinti	Olt
Sector											
Sector A	1614	1547	1495	1541	1708	1503	1458	1559	1547	1474	1531
Industry	2199	2120	2610	2414	1869	2312	1813	2483	2384	2361	2317
Sector B	4129	3657	3767	4589	3327	4016	4374	3802	4510	2884	3855
Sector C	2001	1894	2193	2254	1826	1850	1524	1992	2118	2021	2237
Sector D	4056	4446	5929	3801	3636	3441	3564	3995	3875	3684	4478
Sector E	1960	1926	1884	1839	1648	1810	1343	1817	1974	1747	1600
Sector F	1629	1687	1814	1487	1415	1410	1545	1345	1504	1306	1125
Sector G	1765	1394	1507	1494	1133	1400	1229	1282	1439	1129	1157
Sector H	2249	2413	2681	2025	1603	2480	1916	1901	2144	1656	1944
Sector I	1214	1117	1211	1130	1042	822	1057	989	989	968	874
Sector J	4098	2323	2242	2563	1874	2419	1801	2671	3339	2191	2026
Sector K	5016	3217	3199	3512	3181	3215	3532	3132	3676	3008	2693
Sector L	1847	1568	1641	1518	964	2410	1352	1570	1644	1456	1257
Sector M	3241	2328	2373	3025	1723	2456	2503	2382	2343	2371	2158
Sector N	1533	1118	1084	1201	1153	1034	1061	1074	1169	968	1154
Sector O	3344	3026	3359	2760	2690	2548	2680	3043	3226	3036	2786
Sector P	2123	2038	2205	1998	1989	1784	1959	2022	2097	1933	2057
Sector Q	2002	1903	1871	1751	1715	1528	1760	1955	2058	1970	1927

Sector R	1662	1519	1308	1408	1342	1356	1320	1441	1595	1265	1329
Sector S	1347	1052	1187	1173	1006	863	1352	1227	1507	936	1182

Source: NSI Romania

Table : Average annual gross wages in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in 2014

Sector	Country, Region, District	Bulgaria	Severo-zapaden Region	Vidin	Vratsa	Montana	Pleven	Severen Tsentralen Region	Veliko Tarnovo	Ruse	Silistra	Severo-iztochen Region	Dobrich
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	7989	7583	7130	7603	8320	7700	8403	8017	8937	8242	8961	9796
	Mining and quarrying	15933	9338	..	9648	10290	..	8991	7802	7175	..	12055	..
	Manufacturing	8393	7264	6018	7499	7215	6980	8089	7564	7795	6719	8569	6412
	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	19012	24494	..	..	14924	13889	12869	11651	14574	..	14326	28331
	Water supply	9042	7033	5956	6903	6548	7743	7908	7491	8903	7853	8590	7073
	Construction	8782	8525	6030	11933	7357	6364	7355	8119	6378	7609	7852	6318
	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	8640	5592	5136	5266	6017	5630	6230	5965	6919	5388	6774	6549
	Transport and storage	9350	6193	6512	6095	5622	6542	7796	7405	9066	6513	10457	6447
	Accommodation and food service activities	6021	4878	4473	4760	5263	4814	4752	4532	4833	4553	6673	7135
	Information and communication	22806	7462	6412	5902	9207	6418	9661	9899	10056	8403	12863	8951
	Financial and Insurance activities	18869	12371	11334	11869	10605	13660	12101	13246	12316	8961	16027	9651
	Real estate activities	9312	6708	5611	6786	7889	6802	7239	6419	8015	7090	7625	6909
	Professional, scientific and technical activities	14467	6501	5157	6839	6708	6179	7091	7587	6817	6546	9697	7777
	Administrative and support service activities	7113	4426	4236	4137	4452	4532	4901	5127	4724	5077	5992	5664
	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	11762	9727	9429	9523	9831	9850	10207	10467	10263	9812	10450	10498
	Education	9790	8632	8240	8417	8309	9010	9132	9801	9123	8546	9939	8855
	Human health and social work activities	10436	8823	7336	8656	8657	9741	8838	8349	10456	8100	10325	8564
	Arts, entertainment and recreation	8686	7917	6117	7119	6398	6095	11886	5997	6425	5940	7100	6809
	Activities of households as employers	6736	5337	5344	5764	5730	4946	5722	5519	5922	4761	5513	5477

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Average monthly nominal gross wages in Romania by statistical regions and Counties in 2014

Country, county	Romania	South-east Region	Constanta	South Muntenia	Calarasi	Giurgiu	Teleorman	South-west Oltenia	Dolj	Mehedinti	Olt
Sector											
Sector A	1751	1686	1641	1802	2075	1584	1746	1586	1654	1565	1373
Industry	2362	2229	2668	2602	2039	2372	1976	2590	2331	2478	2518
Sector B	4566	4056	4084	5163	2530	4427	5028	3969	4880	3331	4587
Sector C	2160	2010	2218	2410	1993	1850	1618	2091	2151	2106	2416
Sector D	4297	4763	6334	4302	4611	4285	3410	4068	3066	3775	4297

Sector E	2072	1961	1909	1993	1730	1938	1411	1911	1984	1951	1780
Sector F	1701	1660	1878	1658	1416	1328	1561	1461	1662	1471	1348
Sector G	1936	1494	1603	1567	1222	1585	1402	1405	1465	1389	1649
Sector H	2357	2532	2836	2054	1871	2531	1994	2072	2357	1631	2076
Sector I	1300	1169	1187	1286	1102	1017	1119	1078	1103	980	1077
Sector J	4471	2429	2209	2695	2223	2313	1874	2625	3004	2073	2253
Sector K	5093	3225	3223	3385	3200	2970	3798	3189	3779	2505	2959
Sector L	1847	1653	1661	1713	1225	1905	1348	1372	1418	1492	1333
Sector M	3368	2537	2766	3187	1841	2488	2488	2344	2254	2040	2148
Sector N	1724	1431	1484	1365	1384	1152	1151	1235	1309	1108	1272
Sector O	3787	3455	3706	3085	2853	2726	2855	3582	4011	3343	3230
Sector P	2393	2406	2576	2358	2133	2373	1944	2380	2562	2435	2578
Sector Q	2055	1957	1953	1822	1781	1600	1811	2008	2128	1974	1955
Sector R	1709	1501	1468	1412	1460	1455	1370	1484	1572	1330	1470
Sector S	1563	1349	1376	1389	3009	1310	1369	1477	1996	1318	1123

Source: NSI Romania

Table : Average annual gross wages in Bulgaria by statistical Regions and Districts in 2015

Sector	Country, Region, District	Bulgaria	Severo-zapaden Region	Vidin	Vratsa	Montana	Pleven	Severen Tsentralen Region	Veliko Tarnovo	Ruse	Silistra	Severo-iztochen Region	Dobrich
Agriculture, forestry and fishing		8712	8345	7723	8659	9516	8254	9191	8995	9902	8802	9976	10823
Mining and quarrying		16192	10094	..	10655	9658	..	11649	8294	11950	14730	12295	..
Manufacturing		9131	7947	6884	8169	7914	7599	8649	8230	8384	6903	9374	7196
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply		19773	26557	..	..	16267	14685	13970	13347	15366	..	15158	31200
Water supply		9374	7354	6139	7295	7093	8001	8183	7946	8837	7789	8962	7377
Construction		9212	8275	6901	10560	8026	7154	8118	9474	7082	8103	8827	6478
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles		9417	6002	5214	5513	6573	6016	6637	6199	7335	5787	7515	7078
Transport and storage		9800	6470	6845	6437	6037	6776	7914	7820	8961	5569	11067	7010
Accommodation and food service activities		6318	5034	4533	5274	5169	4983	5048	4854	5096	4961	7012	7230
Information and communication		24255	7493	6154	6216	6727	6525	10344	11092	9960	6702	14247	10131
Financial and Insurance activities		19506	12322	11191	11118	10205	13905	12343	13683	12474	9010	15792	9990
Real estate activities		10118	6708	6894	6519	7465	6656	8650	8553	8235	9148	8101	7197
Professional, scientific and technical activities		15471	7045	5923	9320	6365	6557	7385	7185	8083	6468	10308	7434
Administrative and support service activities		8135	5143	4443	4943	4891	5441	5472	5818	5318	4952	6841	6101
Public administration and		12014	9949	9483	9709	10207	10047	10262	10618	10266	9891	10522	10602

defence; compulsory social security												
Education	10225	8919	8567	8684	8563	9334	9493	10096	9578	8685	10265	9083
Human health and social work activities	10976	9228	7313	8971	8971	10398	9347	8693	11114	8447	10625	8911
Arts, entertainment and recreation	8671	8388	6680	7464	6797	6204	10977	5673	6498	6294	7415	7034
Activities of households as employers	6986	5558	5501	6431	5660	5123	6386	5742	7233	5363	5745	5897

Source: NSI Bulgaria

Table : Average monthly nominal gross wage in Romania by statistical regions and Counties in 2015

Country, Region, County	Romania	South-east Region	Constanta	South Muntenia	Calarasi	Giurgiu	Teleorman	South-west Oltenia	Dolj	Mehedinti	Olt
Sector											
Sector A	1892	1812	1679	1817	1894	1725	1674	1836	1871	1871	1613
Industry	2517	2375	2904	2749	2046	2635	2081	2598	2528	2249	2574
Sector B	4829	4486	5175	5703	3069	4862	5324	3990	5261	3626	4599
Sector C	2340	2173	2474	2583	2030	2176	1726	2163	2279	1881	2490
Sector D	4302	4927	6472	4170	3998	4175	3378	3947	3985	3754	4612
Sector E	2171	2075	1994	1987	1708	2111	1535	2017	2073	2070	1872
Sector F	1956	1943	2221	1766	1512	1585	1679	1723	1918	1743	1585
Sector G	2180	1676	1781	1805	1340	1772	1583	1557	1562	1800	1455
Sector H	2566	2783	3115	2276	1864	2710	2215	2167	2406	1886	2164
Sector I	1474	1357	1398	1341	1163	1154	1597	1208	1228	1154	1133
Sector J	5054	2647	2441	2921	2161	3850	2063	2945	3344	2524	3097
Sector K	5522	3396	3548	3719	3592	3398	3908	3435	3983	3188	3261
Sector L	2091	1916	1967	1872	1443	1805	1738	1538	1675	1663	1373
Sector M	3793	2615	3151	3463	1969	2513	2766	2403	2215	2463	2436
Sector N	1958	1597	1638	1517	1470	1324	1308	1440	1453	1415	1572
Sector O	3993	3667	3880	3271	3111	2933	2933	3718	4142	3659	3247
Sector P	2623	2614	2841	2719	2769	2514	2029	2464	2807	2028	2727
Sector Q	2284	2178	2182	2034	2037	1776	2033	2240	2363	2274	2191
Sector R	1903	1864	2217	1621	1624	1592	1565	1672	1859	1446	1556
Sector S	1778	1473	1595	1495	3496	1468	1382	1639	2274	1421	1266

Source: NSI Romania

The average gross wage of employees under employment relationship and official relationship is an important indicator characterizing the labour market and the capacities of the sectors to increase employment.

Over the period 2013-2015, in all Districts of the cross-border region of Bulgaria, there was an increase in the average gross wage.

The highest wages are in the District of Vratsa - 10 332, almost as much as the average for the country - 10535 BGN. In the rest of the Districts, the amount of the salary is over BGN 8 thousand in the Districts of Ruse, Veliko Tarnovo and Dobrich. The lowest level of the gross wages is BGN 7011 in Vidin.

In 2015, if tracked sector-by-sector, in the Sector of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries reference wages were above the country average in the Districts of Ruse (9902), Montana (9516) and Veliko Tarnovo (8995) in the districts of Dobrich (10823).

The wages were above the average rates even in the Sector of 'Construction' in the Districts of Vratsa (10560) and Veliko Tarnovo (9474), and in the Sector of Hotels and Restaurants Management in the District of Dobrich (7230). Due to incomplete data, the Sectors of 'Extraction' and 'Production and Distribution of Electricity and Heat Power' have not been addressed.

The lowest average wage rates are in the District of Vidin, where the lowest pay levels are observed in 10 of the Sectors compared to the other Districts in the cross-border region out of a total of 17 sectors. Out of ten, the lowest pay was in the field of 'Adm. and ancillary activities' - BGN 4443

The characteristics of the average gross salary are valid for the other two years of the reference period, as the District of Vidin holds the league by the lowest levels within the three years from 2013 to 2015.

In the Romanian counties, the highest labour pay is in the Sector of 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries', followed by the Sectors of 'Mining and quarrying industry' and 'Processing industry'. The lowest pay is in the Sector of 'Activities of households'. In the Sector of 'Agriculture, forestry and fisheries', the value of wages was nearly five times higher than the Sector of 'Activities of households'. No higher pay than the average for the country existed in any of the Counties.

Constanța, of all cross-border Romanian Counties, stands out with the highest pay levels in all Sectors, followed by the Counties of Călărași and Giurgiu. The lowest wages are in the County of Olt. Over the three years, wage rates vary, as no trend is available. In some of the Counties, labour pay was rising in each subsequent year, while in others - such as Teleorman, Mehedinti and Olt - in some of the Sectors a decrease was observed in 2015 compared to 2014.

3.2. Analysis of the results of the Quiz Survey conducted among individuals in the cross-border region Bulgaria - Romania in relation to their attitudes towards labour mobility.

In carrying out this analysis the Activity on Identification and Study of the Labour Force; Employment and Unemployment Assessment were priority areas. The purpose of the Study was to identify whether the population living in the cross-border region of Bulgaria and Romania would agree to work outside the country in which they live without having to change their place of residence and under what circumstances. In parallel to this Quiz, another employer-oriented approach was conducted, which also included questions about their attitude towards the cross-border mobility.

The method that was chosen to carry out the Study was an online interviewing, in the form of Quiz survey. This method was preferred because of its advantages:

- Interviewee is not pressed by time;
- Interviewee is in its usual environment and familiar surroundings;
- The possibility for the Interviewee to be honest increases as there is no visual contact, which reduces the psychological discomfort;

The Study aimed at:

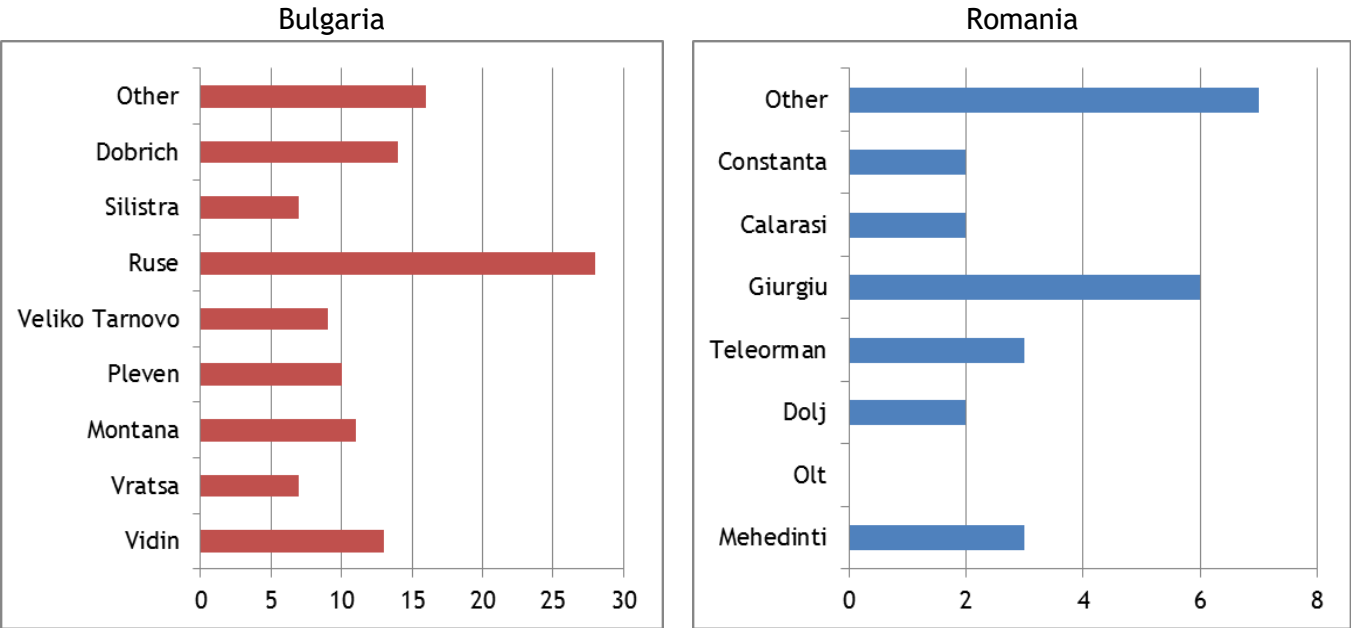
- Identifying the attitude of employers and individuals towards the cross-border mobility;
- Identifying the conditions under which they would agree to cross-border mobility

The Study was conducted in all the Districts and Counties of Bulgaria and Romania in the cross-border region. The target group consisted of the population living in the cross-border region Bulgaria-Romania and employers within the same region.

The Study was conducted using a questionnaire consisting of one Quiz containing twelve Questions addressed to individuals. The Quiz Survey was attended by one hundred and fifteen individuals from

Bulgaria and twenty-five from Romania. The Quiz was structured in two parts. The first part contained Questions referred to the presentation of respondents in general. The second part was focused on the answers sought, subject to this Study. In parallel, an interview was organized with the employers where one of the questions was oriented towards their attitudes in terms of cross-border mobility. All answers to the two Quizzes were summarized and analyzed as follows:

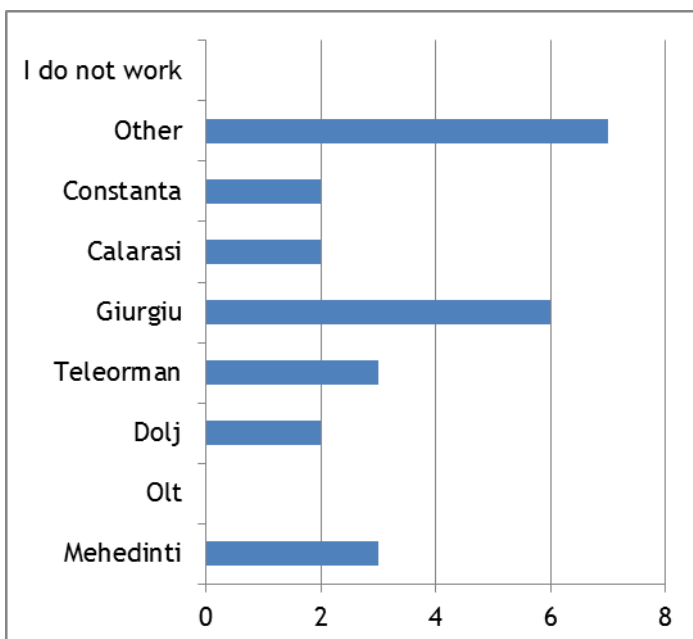
3.2.1. Quiz Survey on the population’s attitude towards the Cross-Border Mobility:
Question 1: In which District do you live now?



Question 2: In which District do you work now?

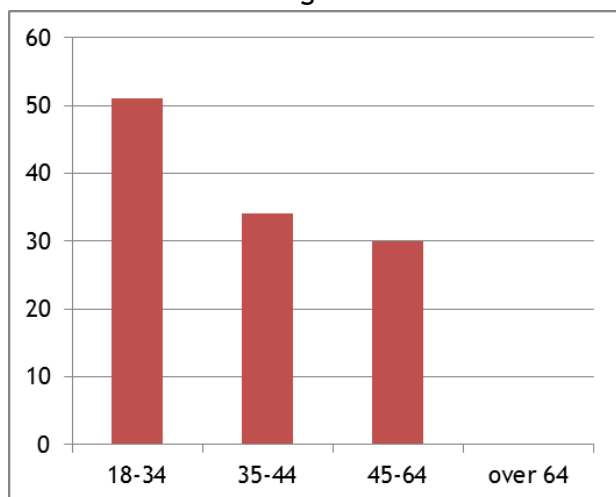
Bulgaria

Romania

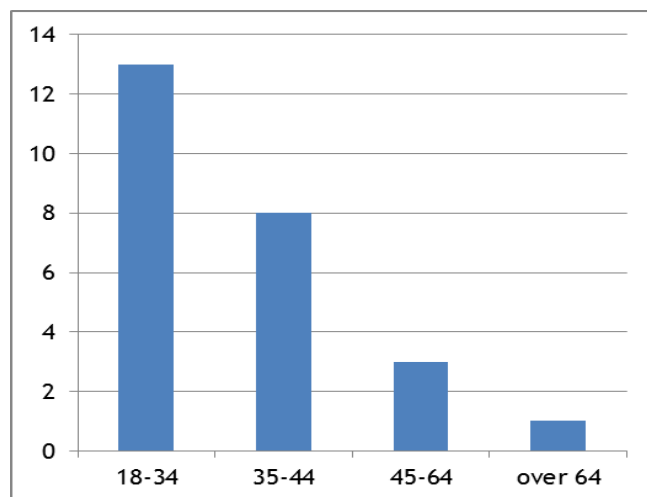


Question 3: In which Age group do you fall ?

Bulgaria



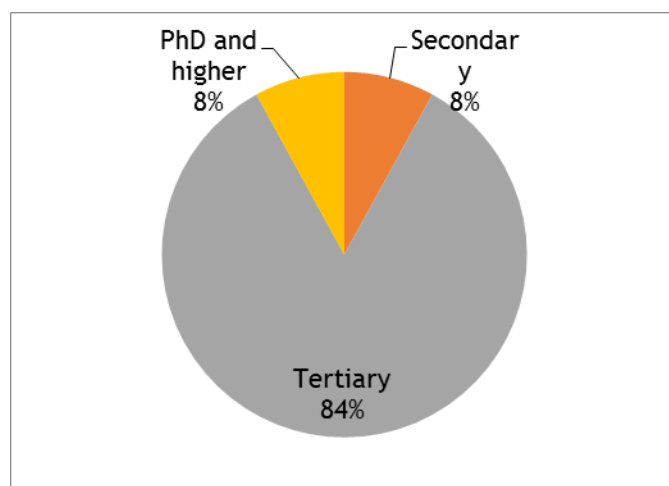
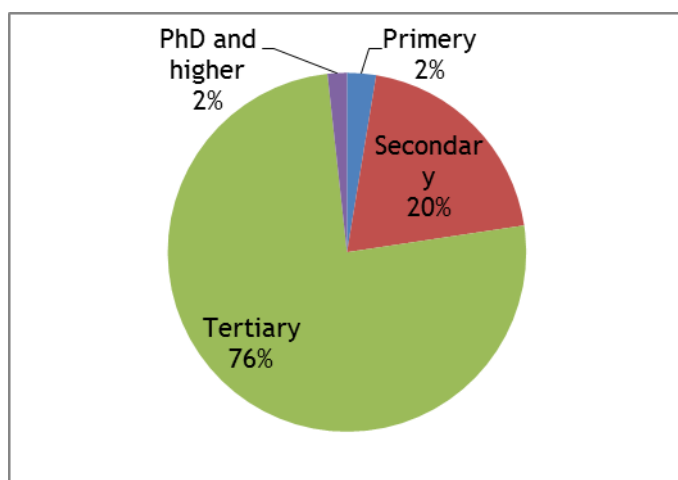
Romania



Question4: What is the educational degree you have acquired?

Bulgaria

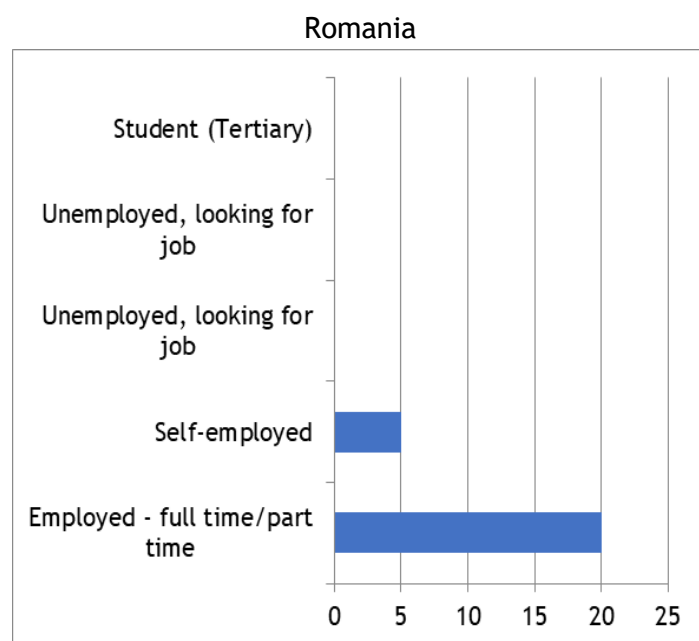
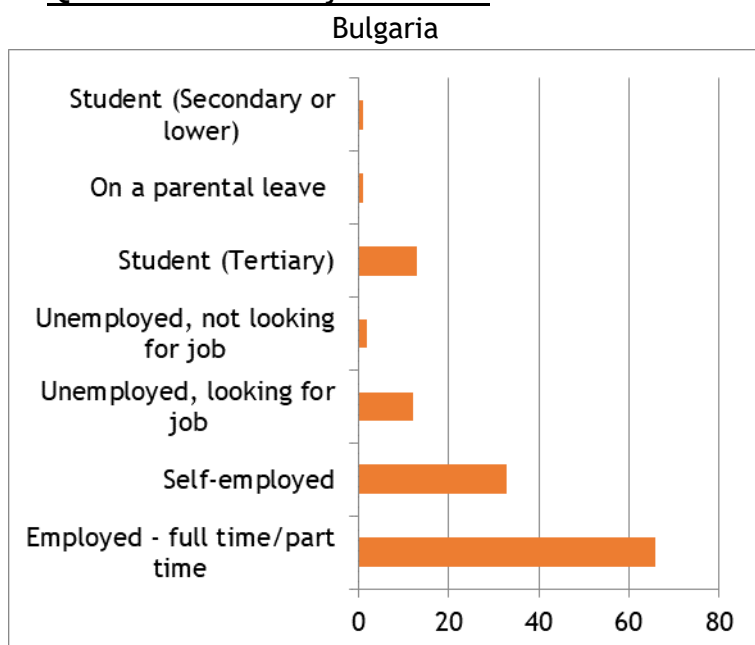
Romania



Question 5: In which field you have completed your educational degree?

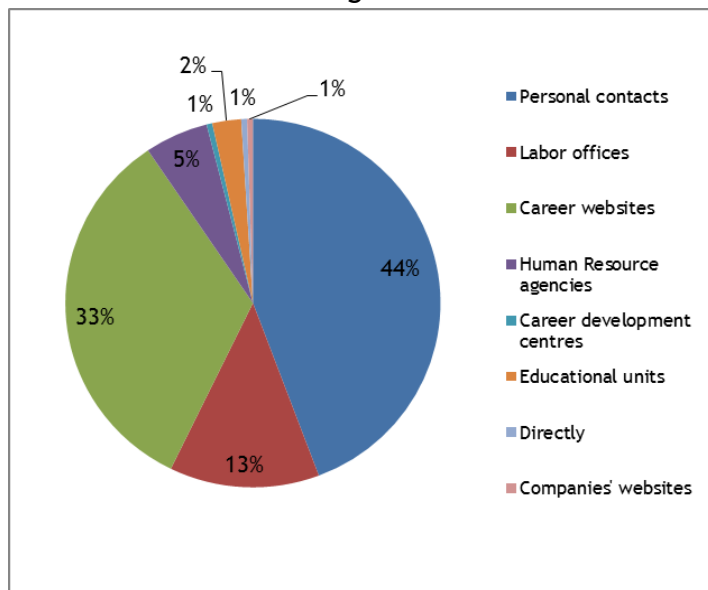
The largest percentage of respondents from Bulgaria and Romania answered that they have completed their education in the field of business and administration, respectively 26% and 36%. They are followed by those who have acquired general education, respectively 13.9% in Bulgaria and 12% in Romania. 9.6% of surveyed population from Bulgaria has acquired education in the field of humanities and 7% in pedagogy and law. 12% of Romanian inhabitants have graduated in the field of humanities and 8% in technical sciences and law.

Question 6: What is your status?

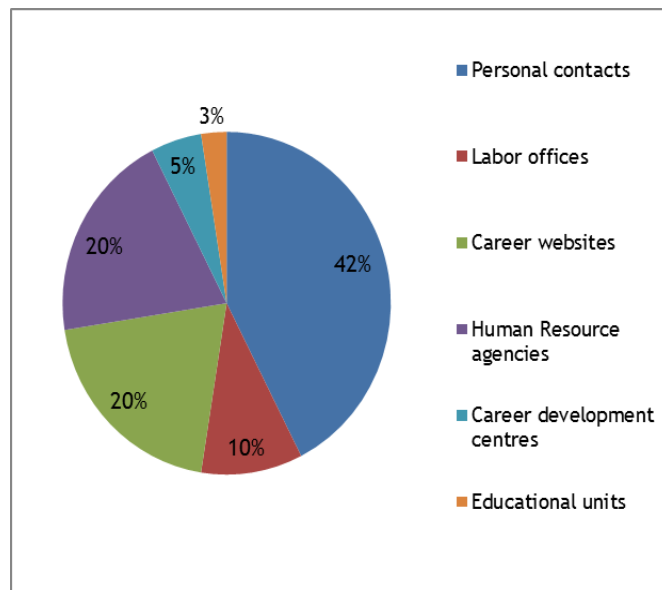


Question 7: How do you most often seek a job?

Bulgaria

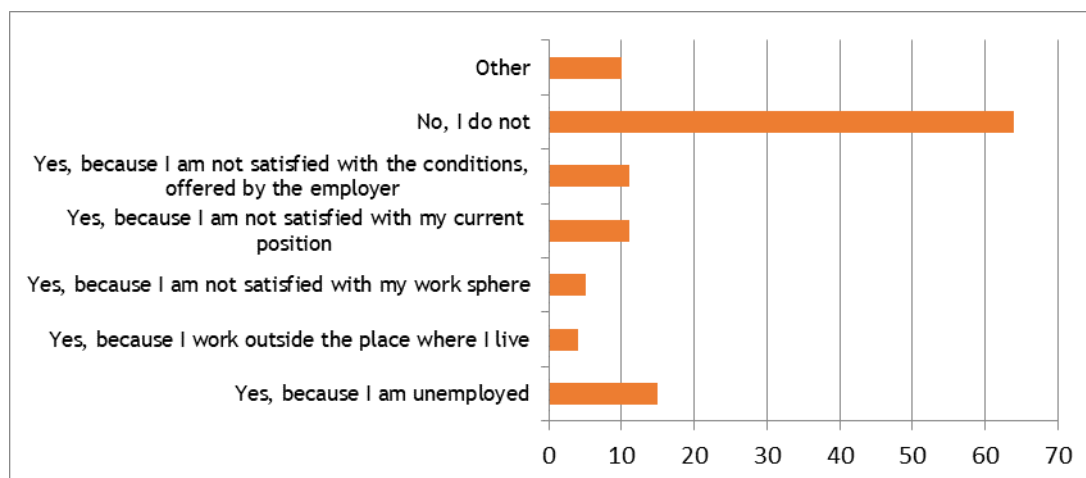


Romania



Question 8: Would you look for a new job right now?

Bulgaria





9% of people living in the Bulgarian Districts of the cross-border region answered ‘Other’- diverse reasons for starting a new job. Some of these referred to the starting of a second job as an opportunity for additional income, others to the working under a fixed-term contract or seasonal employment, as well as some answers referred to accepting new challenges and opportunities.

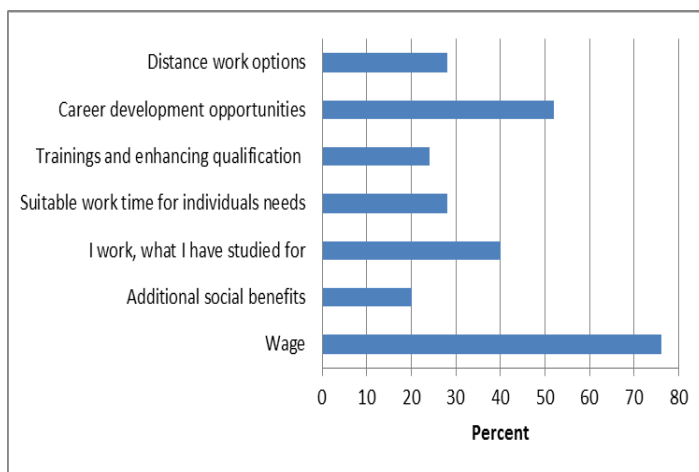
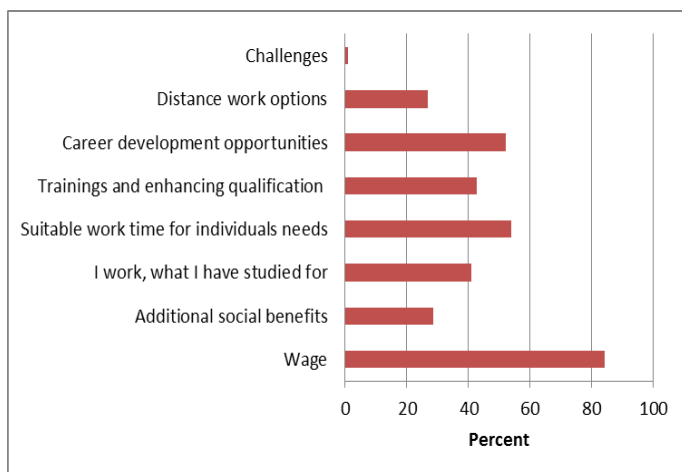
Question 9: In which field do you want to start work?

Among answers of respondents who would choose the field in which they would like to start work, the highest percentage is in Administration, 11% of the Bulgarians and 12% of the Romanians, respectively; followed by ‘Finance and Accounting’ and ‘Economy’ in the answers of Bulgarians by 6.5%; as Romanians preferred the fields of ‘Media and marketing’, ‘Trade and tourism’. 8% of respondents indicated the areas of activity as listed. Among the choice of Bulgarians, the services in the field of law, consultancy services, advertising and PR are ranked by 5.4%.

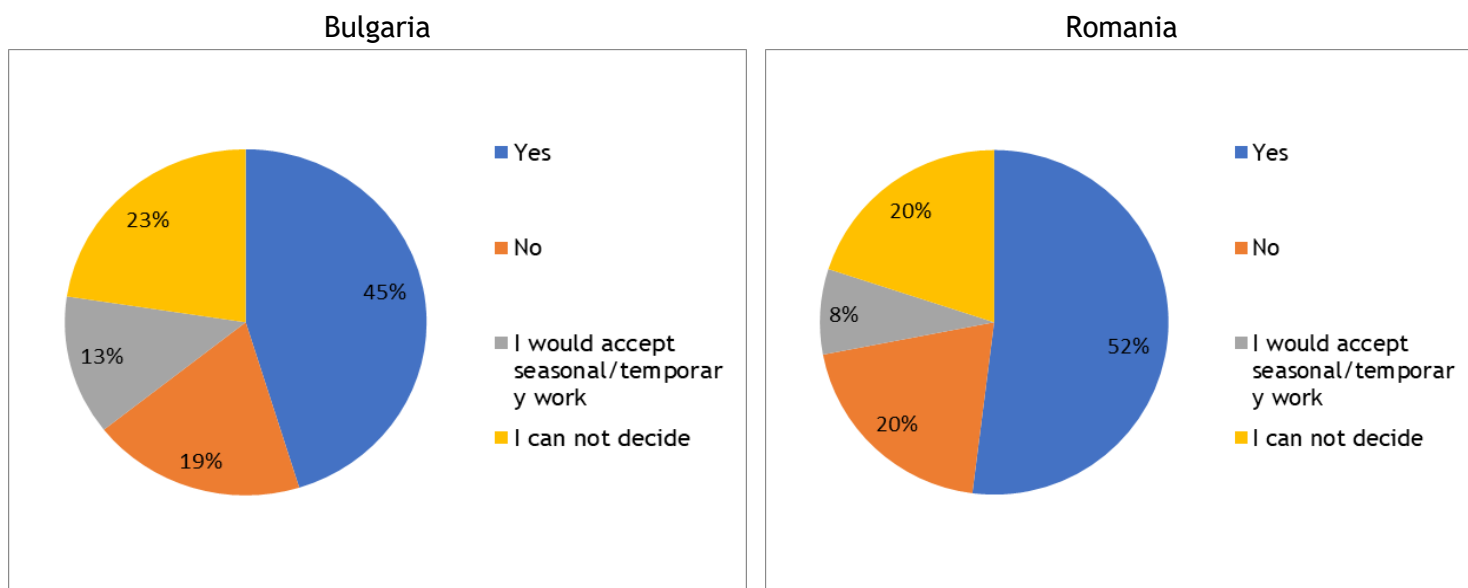
Question 10: What are the main three factors determining your choice of new job?

Bulgaria

Romania



Question 11: If you get an offer that satisfies you, would you start work in Romania / Bulgaria?



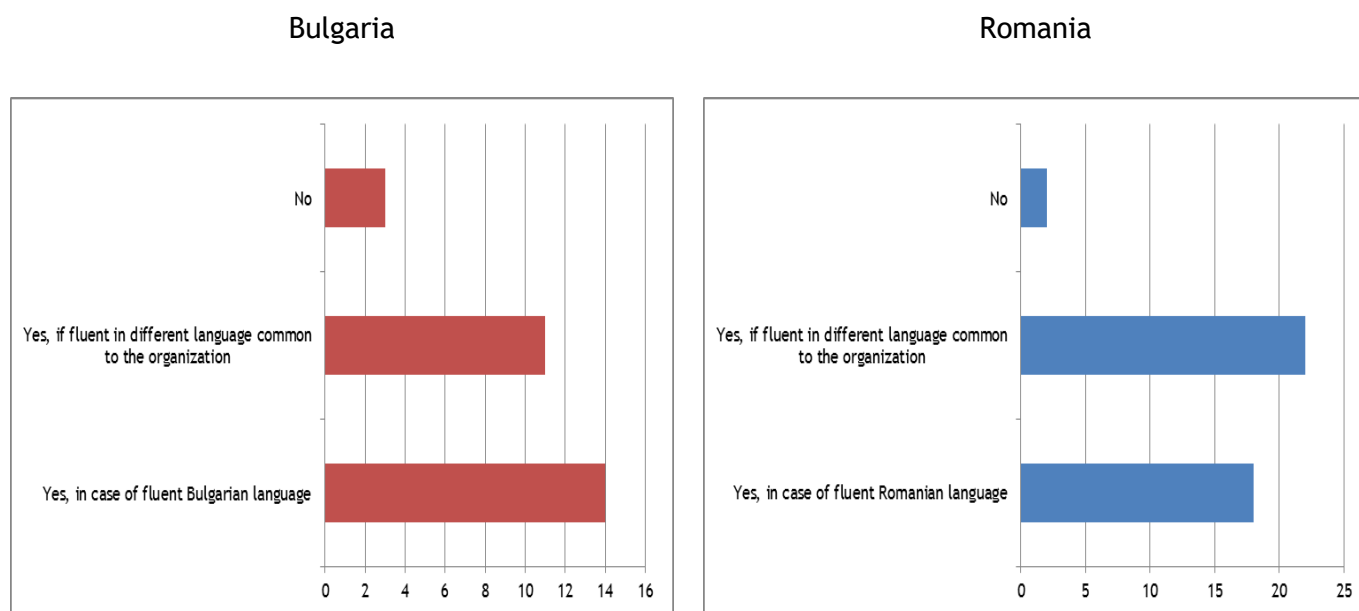
Question 12: How would you do if you accept a job offer in Romania / Bulgaria?

37% of Bulgarians prefer to travel once a week to their working place in Romania or to change their place of residence. 19% of them would travel every day. 6% have answered 'Other', of which: distance work or depending on the nature of the job and the employer' requirements. One of the respondents shared an opinion that currently he/she has started a job in Romania and in every respect this turns out to be very difficult.

28% of respondents in Romania would travel once a week or 'Other'. 24% of them would change their place of residence and 20% would travel every day.

3.2.2. Quiz Survey on the Attitudes of Employers towards the Cross-Border Mobility

Question 19: Are you inclined to hire an employee from Romania?



4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1. Conclusions as a result of the Study carried out on the Labour Force

The number of population across the cross-border region is declining, which has an impact on the Labour Force subject to the current Study. There are exceptions observed in the Bulgarian Districts of Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo and Ruse where the Labour Force is increasing. A higher labour activity among men and women in all cross-border Districts and counties is reported.

As a result of the employment and unemployment assessments carried out, a decrease in the number of persons in employment is registered in all the Romanian Counties and the Bulgarian Districts of Vratsa, Montana, Silistra and Dobrich. Looking more closely at the structure of persons in employment in the Bulgarian Districts, it is observed that the number of employed population with secondary education aged 35-44 is higher. An exception is recorded in the Districts of Vidin and Dobrich, where people in employment are mostly aged 45-54. In the Romanian Counties, with the exception of Olt and Mehedinți, it is observed that the number of students is decreasing, which will affect the educational structure of the employed population in the coming years.

The cross-border Districts and Counties concerned are characterized by the high development of the Agrarian sector. This also has an impact on the employment of the population, as the largest number of people in employment in all the Districts and Counties, was reported in the Sector of "Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries". An exception was made by the District of Ruse, where the Manufacturing sector stands out.

As far as the unemployed persons are concerned, a decrease in their number is recorded both across Europe and in the cross-border region. In 2015 compared to 2014 only in the District of Pleven and in the County of Mehedinți the number of unemployed persons has increased.

4.2. Conclusions referred to Quiz Surveys conducted

As a result of the Study carried out among the population in the cross-border region Bulgaria - Romania, the profile of the labour force was established. Respondents are mostly working people with higher education in the field of economic science and administration. Most often, the seeking of job is done through personal contacts; the online job exchanges, recruitment agencies or labour offices are among other preferred methods. The majority of respondents are satisfied with their current job and position held and do not look for a new one. Jobseekers are mostly unemployed people or people who are not satisfied with the conditions offered by their current employer. The respondents, who would change their job or start a new one, want to be in the sphere of administration and economy.

Information on the attitudes of the population and employers towards the cross-border mobility is retrieved through the Study. For the most part, respondents have a positive attitude. The percentage of respondents to whom the term "cross-border mobility" was unclear is not insignificant, so they have indicated in their answers that they would change their place of residence in order to work in the territory of the neighbouring country. Among other respondents, answers that they would travel once a week within the cross-border mobility to their settlement are predominant.

Employers' answers show that for them, in the context of cross-border mobility, a key factor would be to have a fluency in a language accepted as an official in their organization.

Opinion and experience is shared among respondents about the personal participation in the cross-border mobility. Many difficulties of any kind and nature have been outlined.

In order to facilitate the implementation of a labour mobility, greater publicity should be ensured, information should be provided, regulatory requirements in the field need to be clarified.

VI. SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED

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- 7) Romania's National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation 2014-2020
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