



## Key indicators for Bulgaria\*

This update: 2 April 2015

Next update: 2 July 2015

		2012	2013	2014	Sept.'14	Oct.'14	Nov.'14	Dec.'14	Jan.'15	Febr.'15
<b>1. Output</b>										
Industrial confidence <sup>1.1</sup>	%	-6.0	-8.7	-3.3	-3.4	-0.6	-2.8	-2.7	-2.3	0.7
Industrial production <sup>1.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	-0.2	0.0	1.7	0.5	-0.5	0.3	1.4	1.7	
		<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>13 Q3</b>	<b>13 Q4</b>	<b>14 Q1</b>	<b>14 Q2</b>	<b>14 Q3</b>	<b>14 Q4</b>
Gross domestic product <sup>1.3</sup>	yoy % ch.	0.5	1.1	1.7	1.1	1.9	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.3
<b>2. Private consumption</b>										
Consumer confidence <sup>2.1</sup>	%	-41.5	-38.3	-33.5	-40.7	-34.8	-30.0	-34.3	-37.2	-32.4
		<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Sept.'14</b>	<b>Oct.'14</b>	<b>Nov.'14</b>	<b>Dec.'14</b>	<b>Jan.'15</b>	<b>Febr.'15</b>
Turnover in retail trade <sup>2.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	5.3	3.6	4.7	5.7	3.4	2.3	6.1	4.3	
		<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>13 Q3</b>	<b>13 Q4</b>	<b>14 Q1</b>	<b>14 Q2</b>	<b>14 Q3</b>	<b>14 Q4</b>
Private consumption <sup>2.3</sup>	yoy % ch.	3.2	-1.8	2.4	-2.3	-1.9	4.3	0.9	0.6	0.9
<b>3. Investment</b>										
Capacity utilization in industry <sup>3.1</sup>	%	70.5	69.5	73.3	69.8	70.8	69.5	74.2	73.4	76.1
Gross fixed capital formation <sup>3.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	2.0	-0.1	2.8	2.1	4.2	4.8	5.1	4.4	3.3
Change in stocks <sup>3.3</sup>	% of GDP	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.0	-0.2
<b>4. Labour market</b>										
Unemployment rate <sup>4.1</sup>	%	12.3	12.9	11.4	12.0	13.0	13.0	11.4	10.8	10.6
Employed persons <sup>4.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	-1.1	0.0	1.6	-0.1	-0.7	1.4	1.3	1.6	2.0
Labour costs <sup>4.3</sup>	yoy % ch.	2.9	8.2	3.3	7.1	8.4	3.6	3.6	3.2	3.1
		<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Sept.'14</b>	<b>Oct.'14</b>	<b>Nov.'14</b>	<b>Dec.'14</b>	<b>Jan.'15</b>	<b>Febr.'15</b>
Shortage of labour in industry <sup>4.4</sup>	%	8.7	8.6	11.2	12.5	12.3	12.1	13.1	12.6	12.3
Wages <sup>4.5</sup>	yoy % ch.	6.6	6.0	6.8	2.4	2.6	1.8	2.2		
<b>5. International transactions **</b>										
Export order books in industry <sup>5.1</sup>	balance	-46.5	-49.0	-39.7	-32.0	-28.5	-32.5	-33.2	-32.0	-34.6
Exports of goods <sup>5.2</sup>	mln. EUR	20770.2	22271.4	22115.8	2008.1	2066.9	1969.6	1757.0	1724.5	
Imports of goods <sup>5.3</sup>	mln. EUR	-24230.4	-24701.4	-25061.0	-2293.1	-2285.2	-2157.1	-2165.2	-1845.2	
Trade balance <sup>5.4 ***</sup>	mln. EUR	-3460.3	-2430.0	-2945.2	-285.0	-218.3	-187.5	-408.2	-120.6	
Current account <sup>5.5</sup>	mln. EUR	-458.0	410.6	11.0	63.8	-56.2	-92.9	-389.9	-43.8	
Direct investment (net) <sup>5.6</sup>	mln. EUR	871.5	1265.5	1127.1	-280.2	306.9	201.3	144.2	-19.5	
Portfolio investment (net) <sup>5.7</sup>	mln. EUR	-886.7	-128.5	1216.3	80.4	-109.8	10.5	-62.3	-722.8	
		<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>13 Q3</b>	<b>13 Q4</b>	<b>14 Q1</b>	<b>14 Q2</b>	<b>14 Q3</b>	<b>14 Q4</b>
Exports of goods and services <sup>5.8</sup>	yoy % ch.	0.8	9.2	2.2	11.5	10.5	2.1	3.0	-2.8	5.4
Imports of goods and services <sup>5.9</sup>	yoy % ch.	4.5	4.9	3.8	6.5	6.4	5.5	3.7	2.6	7.5
<b>6. Prices</b>										
HICP <sup>6.1</sup>	yoy % ch.	2.4	0.4	-1.6	-1.4	-1.5	-1.9	-2.0	-2.4	-1.7
Producer prices on domestic market (in industry) <sup>6.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	5.3	-1.3	-0.9	-0.6	0.8	0.3	-0.9	-1.9	-1.2
Selling prices expectations in industry <sup>6.3</sup>	balance	9.7	2.4	6.0	9.0	6.7	10.7	2.3	4.7	1.8
Selling prices expectations in retail trade <sup>6.4</sup>	balance	5.3	0.2	-0.1	-0.3	3.3	0.1	0.7	-1.0	0.8
<b>7. Monetary and financial indicators **</b>										
SOFIBOR (3 months) <sup>7.1</sup>	index	2.25	1.14	0.78	0.70	0.69	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.61
M3 <sup>7.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	8.4	8.9	1.1	7.2	6.7	-1.2	1.1	2.0	2.0
Credit to Non-financial Corporations and Households and NPISHs <sup>7.3</sup>	yoy % ch.	3.2	1.3	-0.1	2.0	1.9	-7.5	-8.2	-8.5	-9.2
Exchange rate USD/BGN <sup>7.4</sup>	value	1.52	1.47	1.48	1.55	1.56	1.57	1.61	1.73	1.74
Nominal effective exchange rate <sup>7.5</sup>	index	131.0	134.1	137.8	135.5	135.5	136.4	137.8	136.7	

Note: yoy % ch. - growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.

\* The key indicators are elaborated in accordance with the euro zone indicators system. The analytical document is quarterly updated. Source of the data are the NSI statistical surveys and BNB data.

\*\* Preliminary data. In accordance with the practice of the BNB and the data revision requirements of the ECB.

\*\*\* For 2014 and 2015 - preliminary NSI data as of 9 March 2015 are used, which include data from the Intrastat system for the EU and non-EU countries.



## Comments

### 1. Output

According to the NSI business inquiries in March 2015 the **industrial confidence indicator** decreased by 1.3 percentage points compared to the previous month.

In January 2015 the working day adjusted **Industrial Production Index** increased by 1.7% compared to the same month of 2014 (preliminary data). On annual basis in January 2015 Industrial Production Index calculated from working day adjusted data increased in the manufacturing by 5.4% while decreases were seen in the mining and quarrying industry by 10.6% and in the electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply by 2.3%.

According to the preliminary data the produced **Gross Domestic Product** at current prices for the fourth quarter of 2014 is BGN 22 692 million according to the preliminary data. GDP per person is BGN 3 144. GDP is USD 14 509 million using the average for the quarter exchange rate of BGN 1.56398 for 1 USD. In euro terms GDP is EUR 11 602 million or EUR 1 607 per person. According to the seasonally adjusted figures, the GDP growth rate in the fourth quarter of 2014 is 0.4% compared to the third quarter of 2014 and 1.3% compared to the same quarter of the previous year.

### 2. Private consumption

In January 2015 the total **consumer confidence indicator** increases by 4.8 percentage points compared to its October 2014 level as for the urban population the increase is 4.0 percentage points and for the rural population - 7.3 percentage points. The consumers' opinions of the development of the general economic situation in the country over the last 12 months as well as their expectations about the next 12 months are less negative than they are in the previous survey.

In January 2015 the working day adjusted **turnover in 'Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles'** (preliminary data) grew by 4.3% in comparison with the same month of the previous year. In January 2015 compared to the same month of 2014 the turnover increased more significantly in the 'Retail sale via mail order houses or via Internet' by 17.7%, in the 'Retail sale of audio and video equipment; hardware, paints and glass; electrical

household appliances' by 10.1%, in the 'Retail sale of textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods' by 7.5%, in the 'Retail sale of automotive fuel' by 7.0%. A drop was registered in the 'Retail sale of computers, peripheral units and software; telecommunications equipment' - 2.1%.

In the fourth quarter of 2014 for **individual consumption** were spent 73.7% of the GDP produced. According to seasonally adjusted data, the real increase of the indicator compared to the respective quarter of 2013 was 0.9%

### 3. Investment

In January 2015 the **average capacity utilization in industry** increased by 2.7 percentage points compared to October 2014 and reached 76.1%.

According to seasonally adjusted data, the **gross fixed capital formation** in the fourth quarter of 2014 increased in real terms by 3.3% compared to the same period of the previous year. The relative share of that indicator in GDP is 22.5%.

### 4. Labour market

In the fourth quarter of 2014 the total number of **employed persons aged 15 years and over** was 2 989.7 thousand and represented 48.2% of the population in the same age group. In comparison with the fourth quarter of 2013 the employment rate rose by 1.2 percentage points.

In the fourth quarter of 2014 there were 354.5 thousand **unemployed persons** and **the unemployment rate** was 10.6%. In comparison with the fourth quarter of 2013 the number of unemployed persons was by 19.4% lower, and the unemployment rate decreased by 2.4 percentage points.

According to the NSI business inquiries in March 2015 12.9% of the industrial enterprises pointed out the **labour shortage** as a factor limiting their activity.

In December 2014 the **average wage and salary** was BGN 865 or 3.8% more compared to the previous month. Compared to December 2013 the increase was 2.2%.



## 5. International transactions

According to the industrial managers' assessments in March 2015 in comparison with February an increase of the production assurance with **orders from abroad** by 5.2 percentage points was registered.

The **current account** recorded a deficit of EUR 43.8 million (0.1% of GDP)<sup>1</sup> in January 2015, compared with a negative balance of EUR 435.8 million (1% of GDP)<sup>1</sup> in January 2014.

The **trade balance** recorded a deficit of EUR 120.6 million (0.3% of GDP)<sup>1</sup> in January 2015, compared with a deficit of EUR 351.4 million (0.8% of GDP)<sup>1</sup> in January 2014.

**Exports (FOB)** amounted to EUR 1 724.5 million in January 2015, increased by EUR 140.3 million (8.9%) in comparison with January 2014 (EUR 1 584.2 million). In January 2014 exports fell by 11% year-on-year. **Imports (FOB)** amounted to EUR 1 845.2 million in January 2015, decreases by EUR 90.4 million (4.7%) from January 2014 (EUR 1 935.5 million). In January 2014 imports rose by 6.4% year-on-year.

In January 2015 **direct investment abroad** increased by EUR 3.1 million compared with EUR 25.2 million in January 2014. **The Foreign direct investment** recorded a net outflow of EUR 16.4 million (0.04% of GDP)<sup>1</sup> in January 2015, compared with an inflow of EUR 50 million (0.1% of GDP)<sup>1</sup> in January 2014.

**The portfolio investment assets** rose by EUR 157.8 million, compared with a decrease of EUR 47.9 million in January 2014. **Portfolio investment liabilities** dropped by EUR 565 million compared with a decrease of EUR 30.7 million in January 2014 mainly due to the maturity of General government bonds issued abroad.

The external balance in the fourth quarter of 2014 is negative. **Import and export** of goods and services increase by 7.5 and 5.4% accordingly.

## 6. Prices

In February 2015 the **harmonized index of consumer prices** decreased by 1.7% compared to February

2014. The highest decrease was registered in 'Transport' - by 10.0%.

**Producer Price Index on Domestic Market** in February 2015 decreased by 1.2% compared to the same month of 2014. The domestic prices fell in the manufacturing by 4.2% and in the mining and quarrying industry by 3.1%, while prices increases were registered in the electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply by 4.2%.

According to the conjuncture inquiry in March 2015 the majority of managers expected the **selling prices in industry** to preserve their level over the next 3 months.

## 7. Monetary and financial indicators

Compared to February 2014, the **three-month interbank market index SOFIBOR** decreased by 0.28 percentage points from 0.89% to 0.61%.

In February 2015, the annual growth rate of broad money (**monetary aggregate M3**) was positive and compared to 2.0% in January 2015 it remained the same. At the end of February 2015 M3 was BGN 68.978 billion (82.7% of GDP)<sup>1</sup> compared to BGN 69.007 billion (82.7% of GDP)<sup>1</sup> in January 2015.

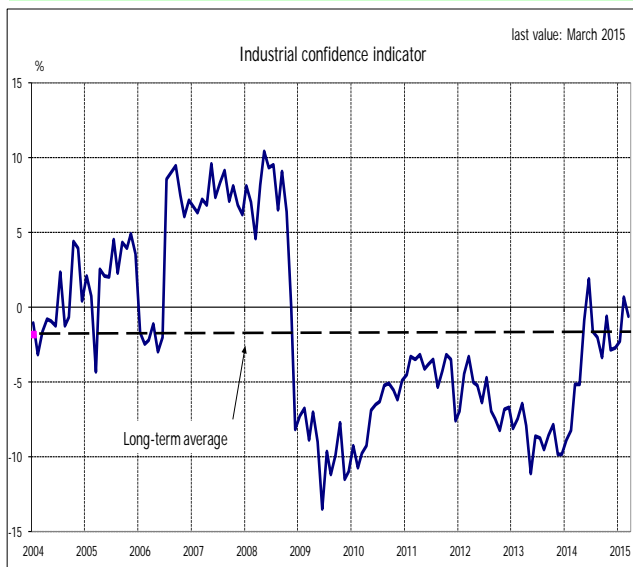
The volume of **loans to Non-financial corporations, households and NPISHs** in February 2015 amounted to BGN 48.792 billion. On annual basis, in February 2015, the loans to Non-financial corporations decreased by 13.1% (11.9% annual decrease in January 2015) and at the end of month amounted to BGN 30.618 billion (36.7% of GDP)<sup>1</sup>. Loans to Households and NPISHs were BGN 18.174 billion (21.8% of GDP)<sup>1</sup> at the end of February 2015.

In February 2015 the **exchange rate BGN against the US dollar** reached BGN 1.74 per USD.

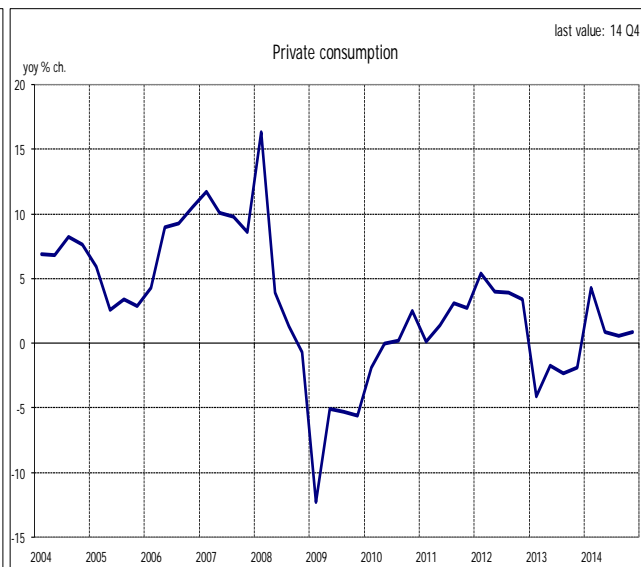
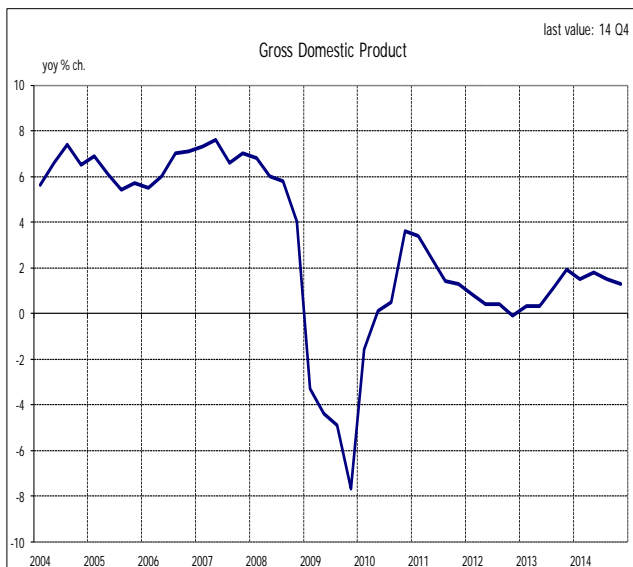
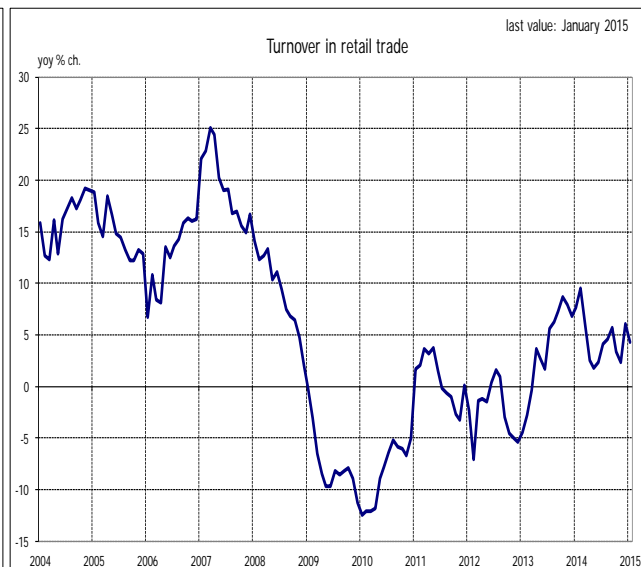
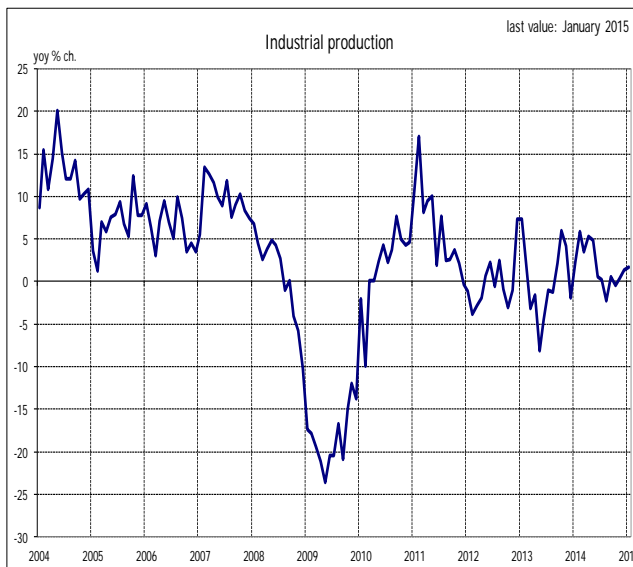
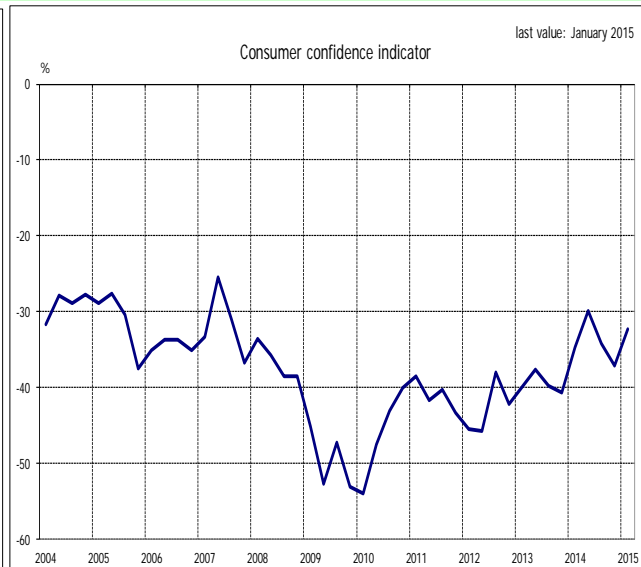
<sup>1</sup> The estimates are taken from BNB.



## 1. OUTPUT



## 2. PRIVATE CONSUMPTION

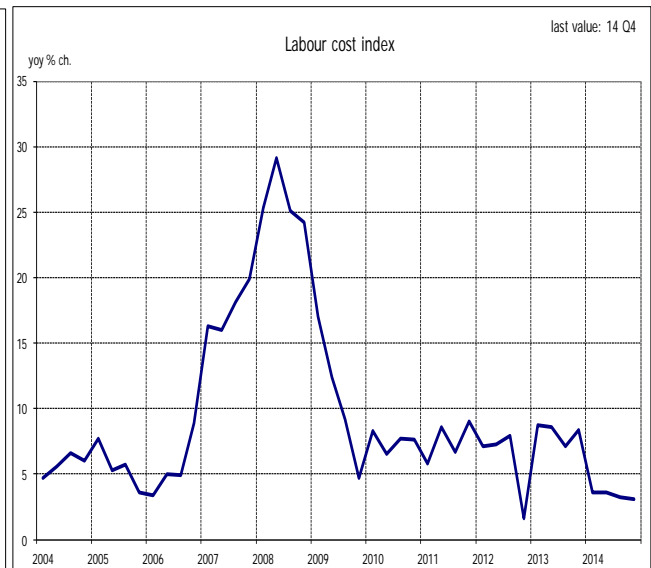
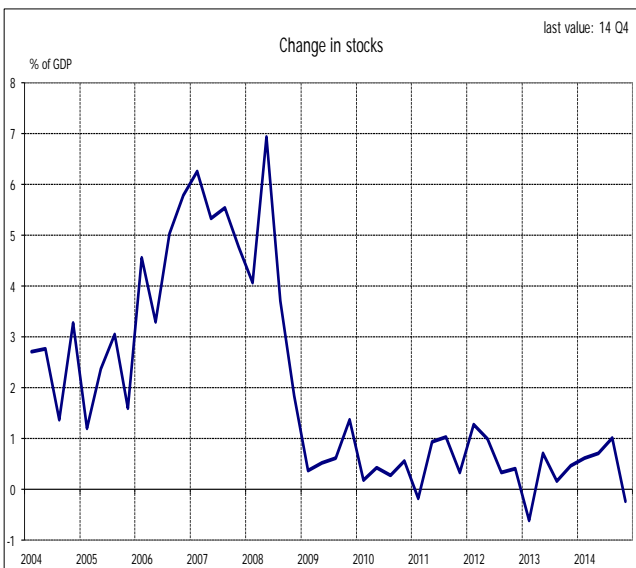
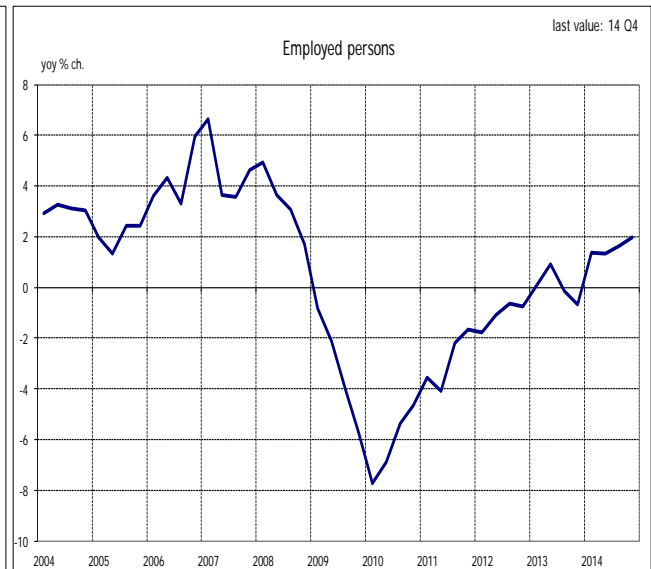
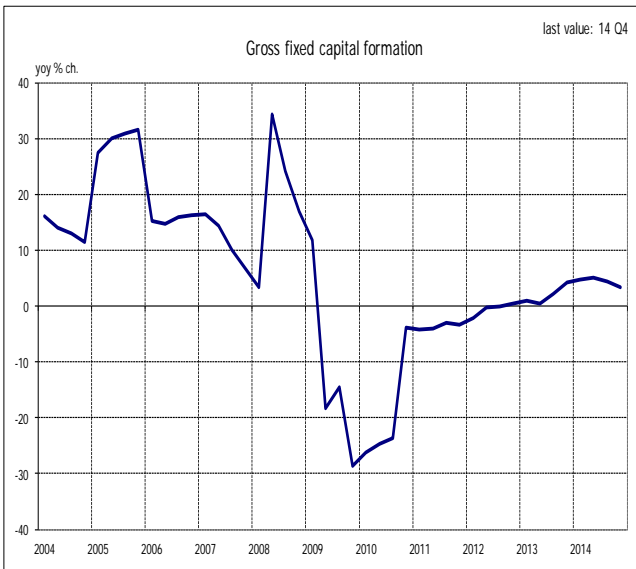
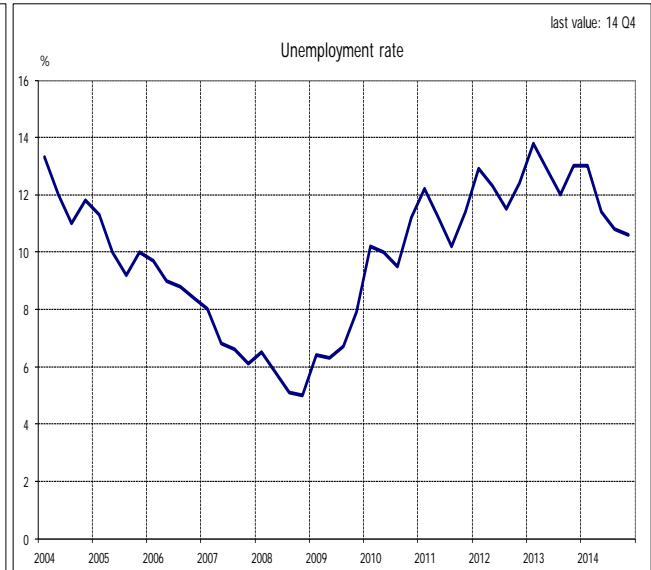
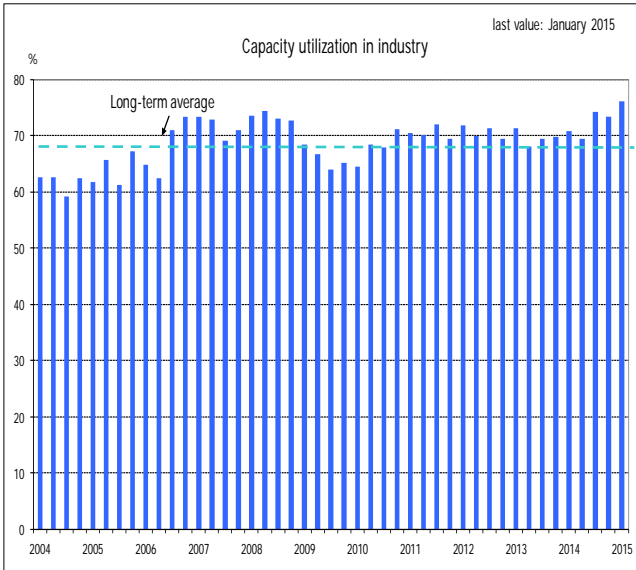


**Note:** yoy % ch. - growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.



### 3. INVESTMENT

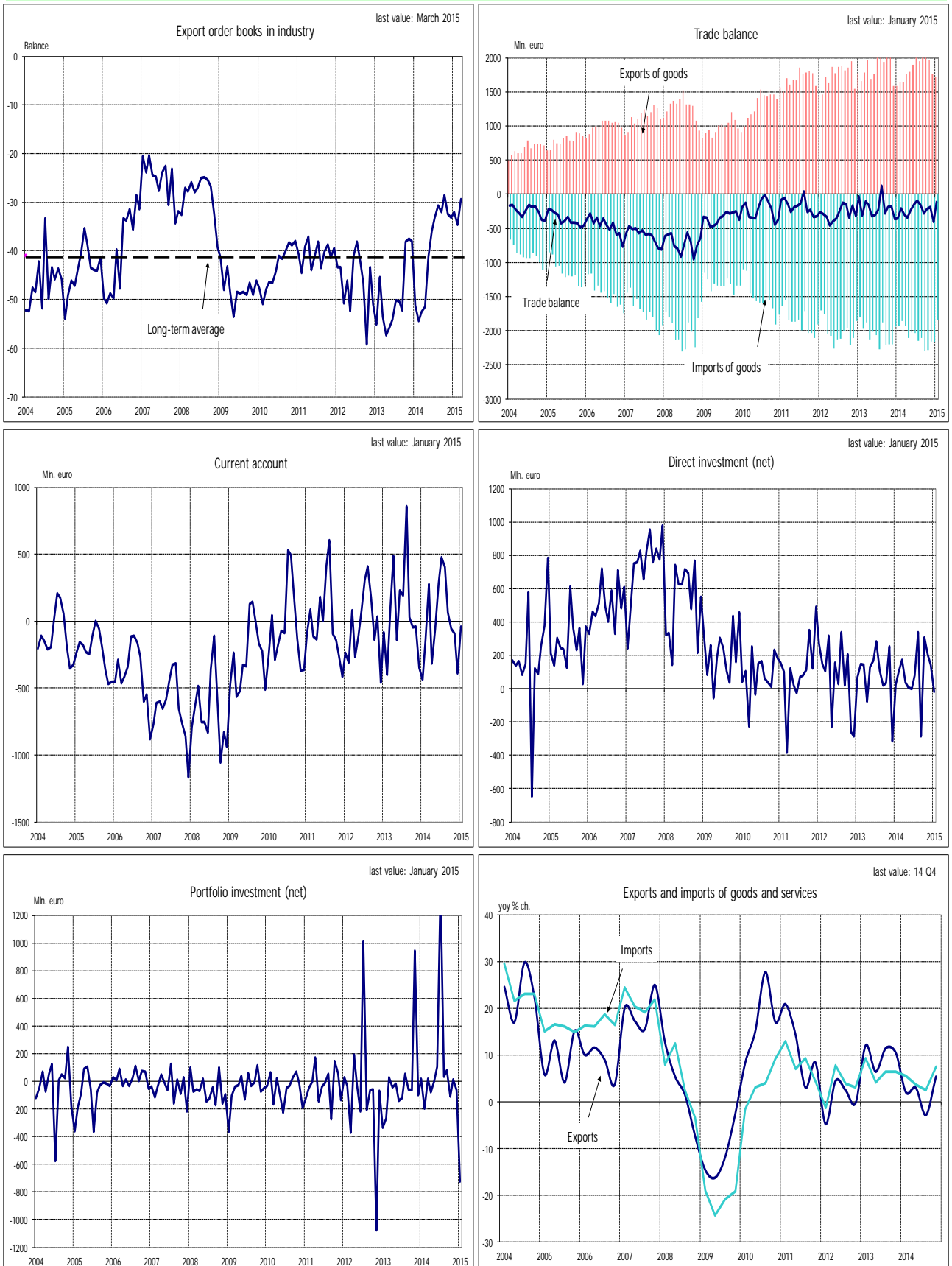
### 4. LABOUR MARKET



**Note:** yoy % ch. - growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.

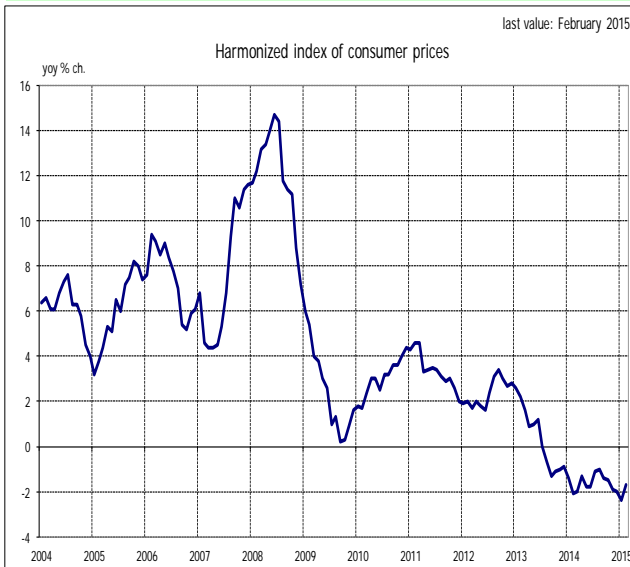


## 5. INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS

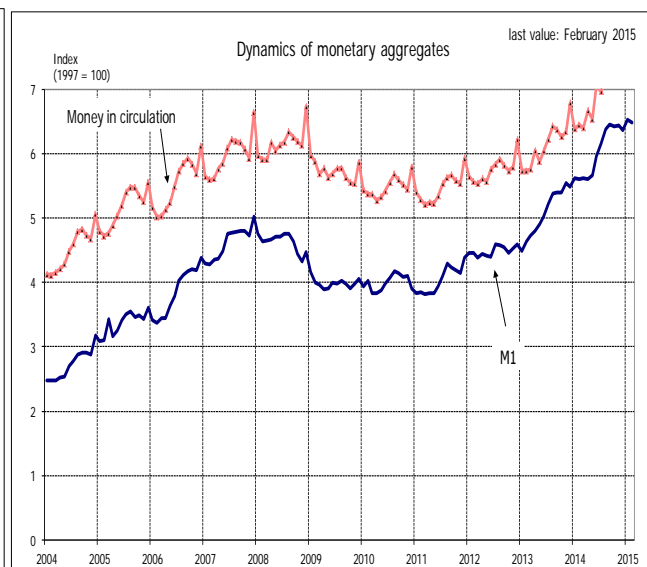
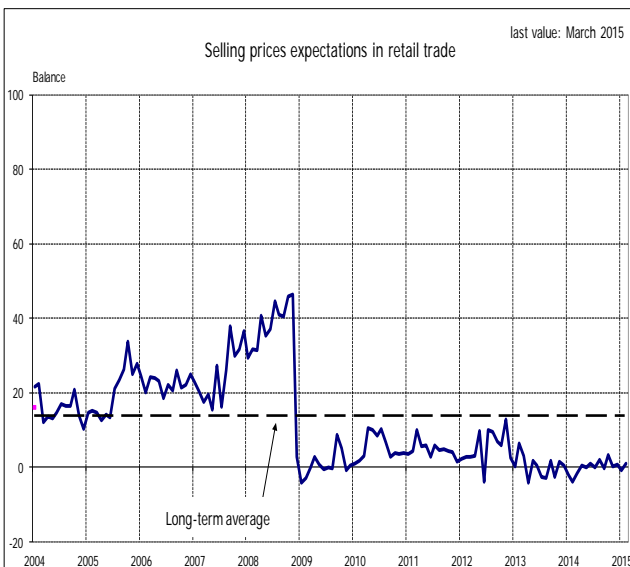
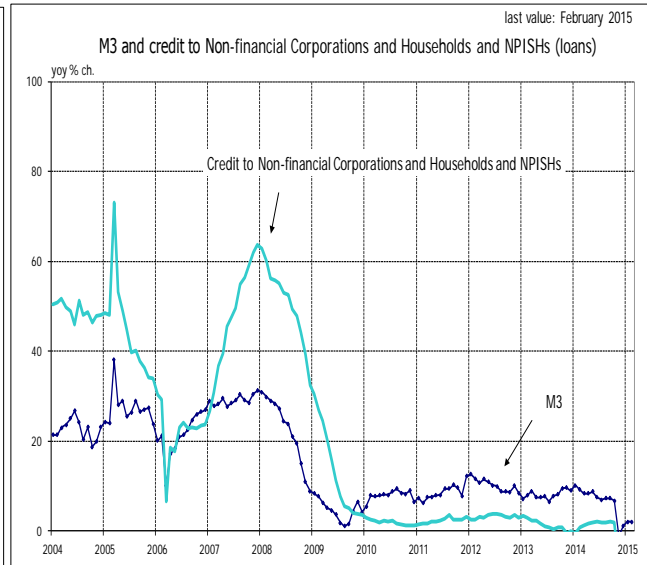
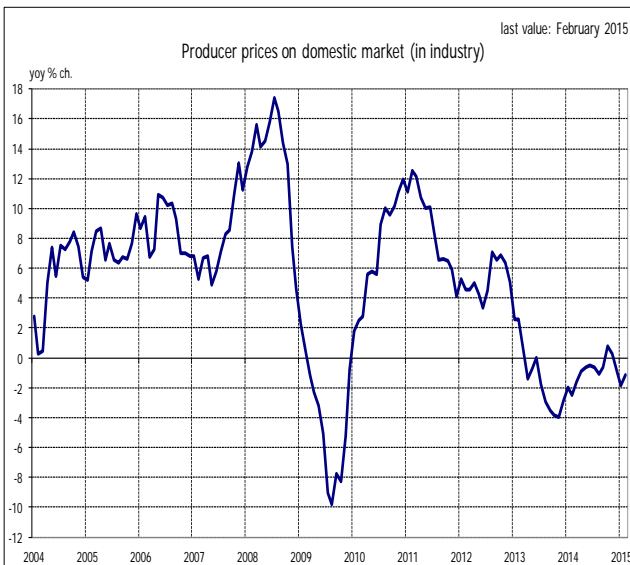
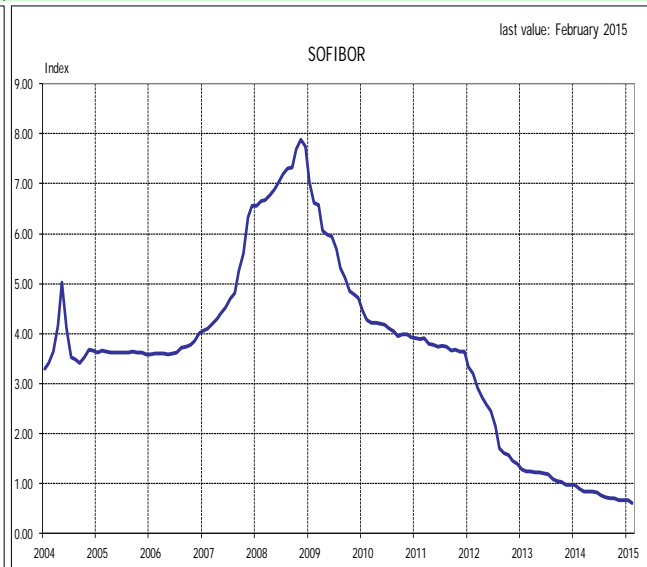




## 6. PRICES



## 7. MONETARY AND FINANCIAL INDICATORS



**Note:** yoy % ch. - growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.


**Key indicators for Bulgaria - Methodological notes**

<b>№</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Source</b>
<b>1. Output</b>			
1.1.	Industrial confidence indicator	Business survey in industry. The industrial confidence indicator is an arithmetic average of balances to replies on production expectations, order books and stocks of finished products (the latter with negative sign)	NSI
1.2.	Industrial production	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, working day adjusted data (2010 = 100)	NSI
1.3.	Gross Domestic Product	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
<b>2. Private consumption</b>			
2.1.	Consumer confidence indicator	Consumer survey. The consumer confidence indicator is an arithmetic average of balances of the expectations about the economic and financial situation, unemployment and savings of households over the next 12 months	NSI
2.2.	Turnover in retail trade	Turnover in retail trade (excluding motor vehicles), growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, working day adjusted data (2010 = 100)	NSI
2.3.	Private consumption	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
<b>3. Investment</b>			
3.1.	Capacity utilization	Average capacity utilization in industry, as a percentage of full capacity (Data are collected each January, April, July and October)	NSI
3.2.	Gross fixed capital formation	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
3.3.	Change in stocks	As a percentage of GDP. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
<b>4. Labour market</b>			
4.1.	Unemployment rate	Relative share of the unemployed persons of the economically active population in Bulgaria (data from Labour force survey)	NSI
4.2.	Employed persons	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year (data from Labour force survey)	NSI
4.3.	Labour costs	Index of hourly labour costs incurred by the employers as a result of engaging the workforce, growth rate compared to the same period of previous year, working day adjusted data	NSI
4.4.	Shortage of labour	Percentage of firms in industry pointing out shortage of labour as a constraint to production	NSI
4.5.	Wages	Nominal value, growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, average monthly wages of the employees under labour contract	NSI
<b>5. International transactions</b>			
5.1.	Export order books	Business survey in industry. Balance of positive and negative replies	NSI
5.2.	Exports of goods	Balance of payment, Analytical presentation, million EUR	BNB
5.3.	Imports of goods	Balance of payment, Analytical presentation, million EUR	BNB
5.4.	Trade balance	Balance of payment, Analytical presentation, million EUR	BNB
5.5.	Current account	Balance of payment, Analytical presentation, million EUR	BNB
5.6.	Direct investment	(net) million EUR, balance of payment, analytical presentation	BNB
5.7.	Portfolio investment	(net) million EUR, balance of payment, analytical presentation	BNB
5.8.	Exports of goods and services	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
5.9.	Imports of goods and services	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
<b>6. Prices</b>			
6.1.	Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year	NSI
6.2.	Producer prices on domestic market (in industry)	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year (2010 = 100)	NSI
6.3.	Selling price expectations in industry	Business survey in industry. Balance of positive and negative replies.	NSI
6.4.	Selling price expectations in retail trade	Business survey in retail trade. Balance of positive and negative replies.	NSI
<b>7. Monetary and financial indicators</b>			
7.1.	SOFIBOR	Three-month interbank market index SOFIBOR (SOFIBOR: Sofia Interbank Offered Rate is a fixing of the quotations for unsecured BGN deposits offered in the Bulgarian interbank market)	BNB
7.2.	M3	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year (monthly value: value at the end of the month)	BNB
7.3.	Credit to Non-financial Corporations and Households and NPISHs (loans)	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year (monthly value: value at the end of the month)	BNB
7.4.	Exchange rate USD/BGN	Period averages	BNB
7.5.	Nominal effective exchange rate	Index (June 1997 = 100). CPI based index calculated for the reporting month.	BNB