

Trifon Zarezan

„May there be prosperity! Let it flow over the thresholds!“

February 1 is Saint Trifon's Day. It is celebrated by wine growers, tavern keepers and gardeners to whom the Saint is a patron. The traditions followed to celebrate St. Trifon's day vary across regions in Bulgaria.

In the Plovdiv region, people go to their vineyards with „backlitza“ (a bottle made of wood and filled with red wine) and cut a set of select, most fertile grapevines with a sharpened „koser“ (a knife), water them with wine and bless them so they would bear a lot of grapes.

In Malgarsko (Eastern Thrace), while walking around the vine stumps, you may hear a man crying out „Trifon, where are you?“, while another replies „I cannot see you under the grapevines!“. The first man answers „Next year, I will not be able to see you at all!“

In Rodopsko, the woman of the house strikes a pillar with an axe and cries out: „Can you hear me, Trifon?“. An answer comes from inside the house: „Oh, I cannot hear you because my ears are filled with butter and cheese“.

These customs are called a „Trifonosvane“, a call to fruitfulness.

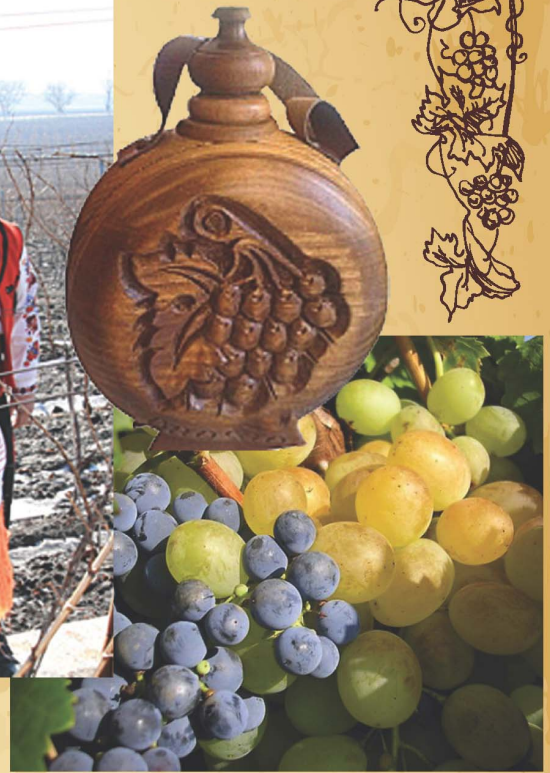
In Northern Bulgaria (Ruse, Veliko Tarnovo, Pleven region, Vratsa region), the King of the Grapevines is chosen on St. Trifon's Day. The chosen King then gives a blessing: „May we be blessed with a good harvest!“. Once the feasts in the vineyards have finished, the people go back to the village carrying their bagpipes, violins and drums.

From the book „Bulgarian folk festivals“ by Mihail Arnaudov





4 589 men and 2 195 women celebrate name day on
Saint Trifon's Day



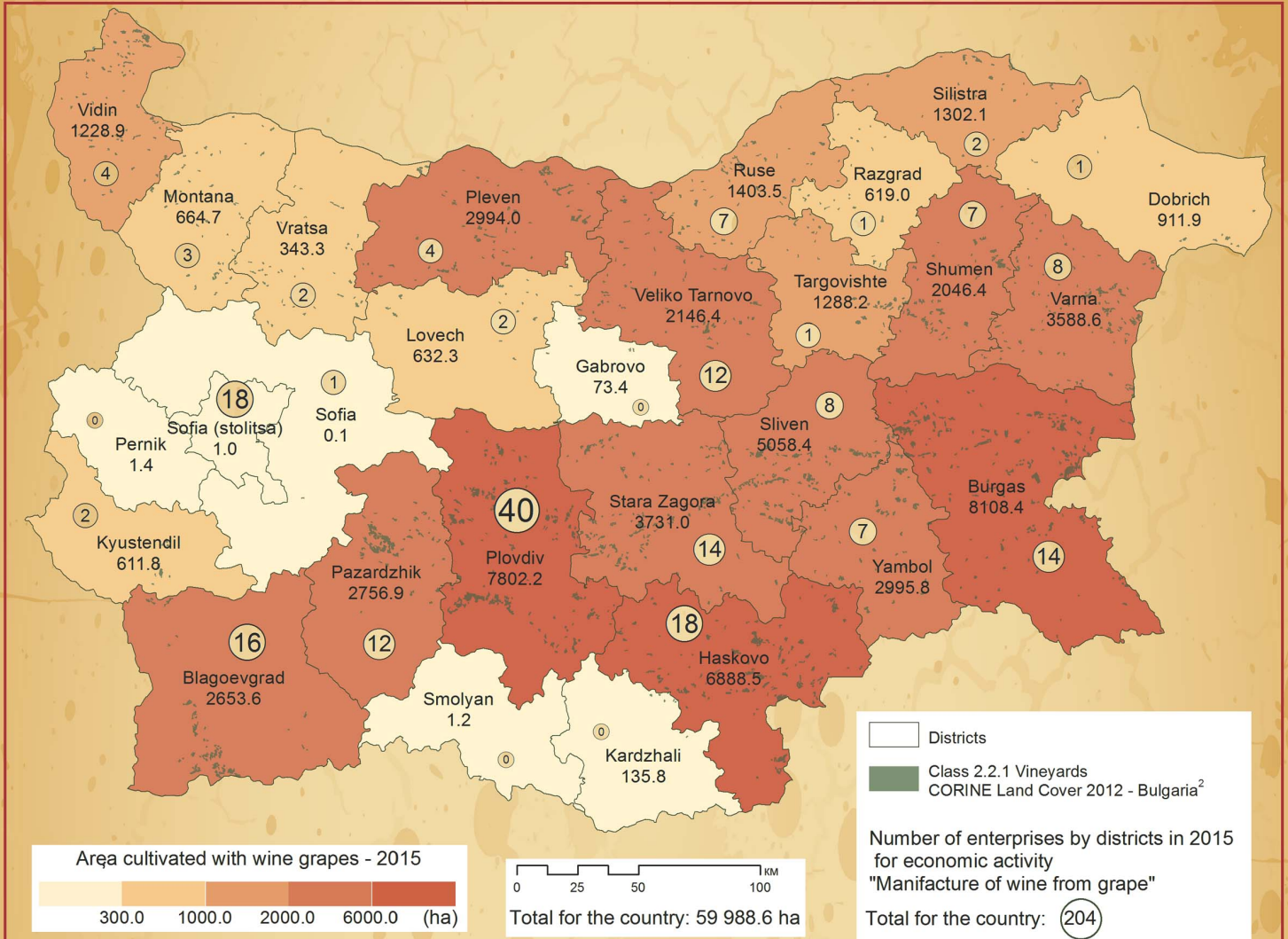
In the 2015/2016 academic year in higher education

- 392 students were studying viticulture at the faculties for agriculture, and
- 347 were studying oenology at the faculties for technologists





Area planted with grapevines¹ and number of enterprises for the production of wine from grapes in Bulgaria in 2015

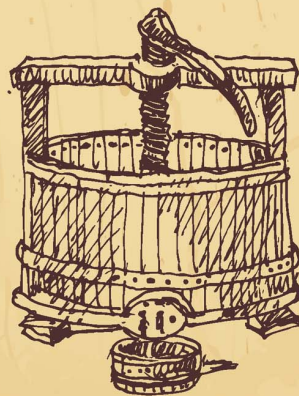
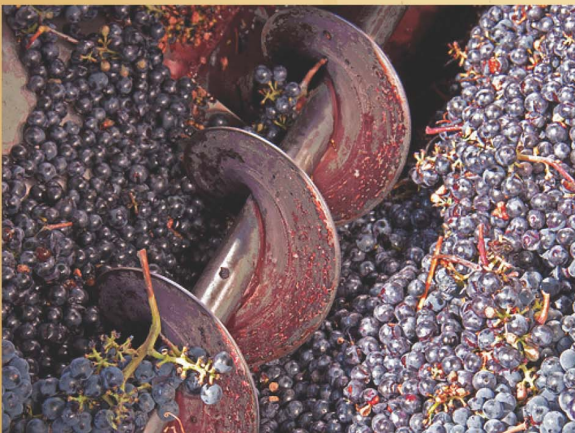


¹ Source of areas' data: Executive agency on vine and wine.

² European Program for Observation of Earth based on interpretation of satellite images. For Bulgaria, it is implemented by the Executive Environment Agency with the financial support of the EU and Copernicus program through the European Environment Agency.

Production of wine

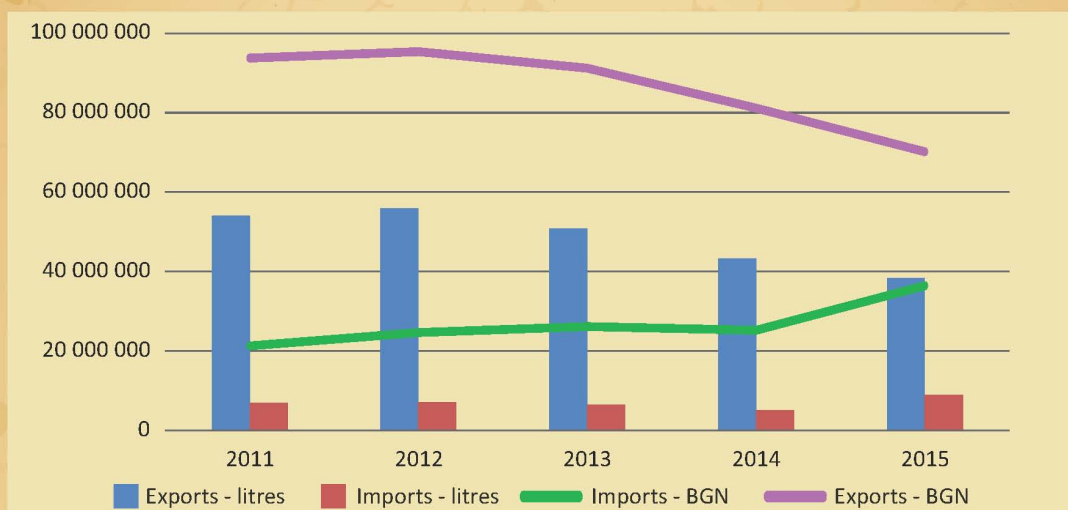
3 500 persons were employed in the production of 136 596 thousand litres of wine from grapes in 2015.





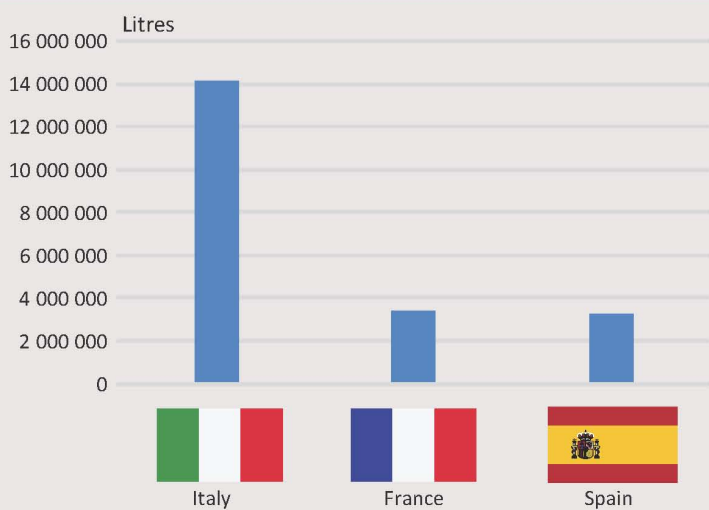
Imports and exports of wine from grapes

Imports and exports of wine from fresh grapes (incl. fermented grape must) for the 2011 - 2015 period

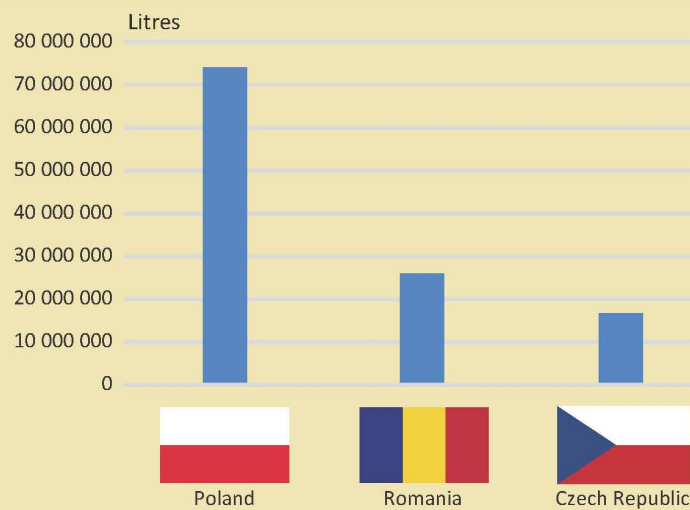


Top 3 trade partner countries

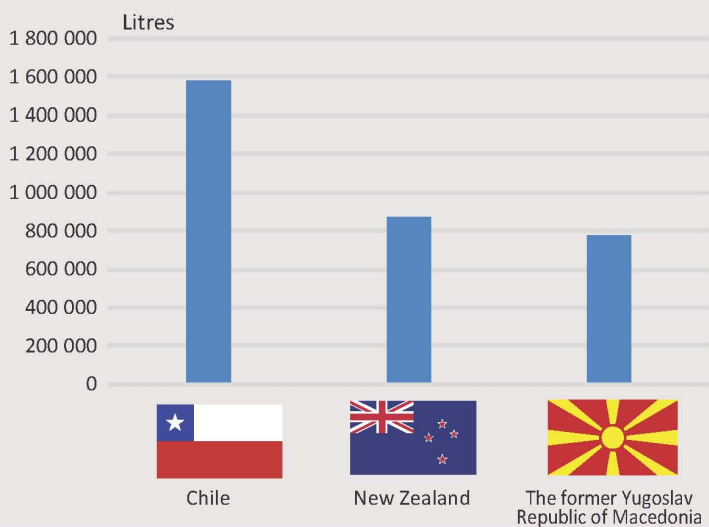
Imports from EU Member States



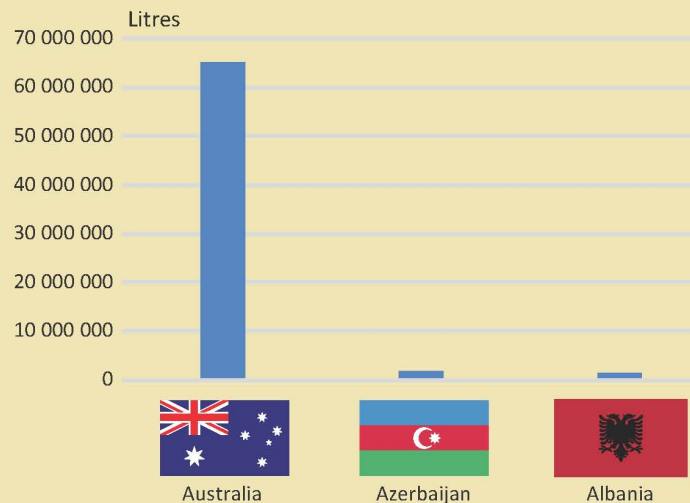
Export to EU Member States



Imports from non-EU countries

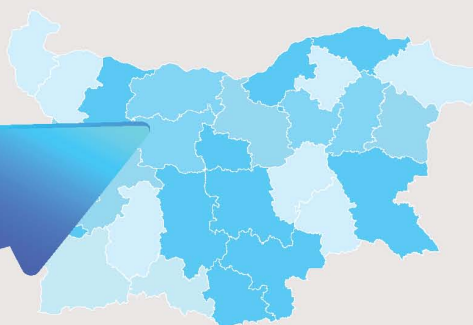


Export to non-EU countries





Imports and exports of wine from fresh grapes
(incl. fermented grape must)
for the January - October 2016 period (Preliminary data)

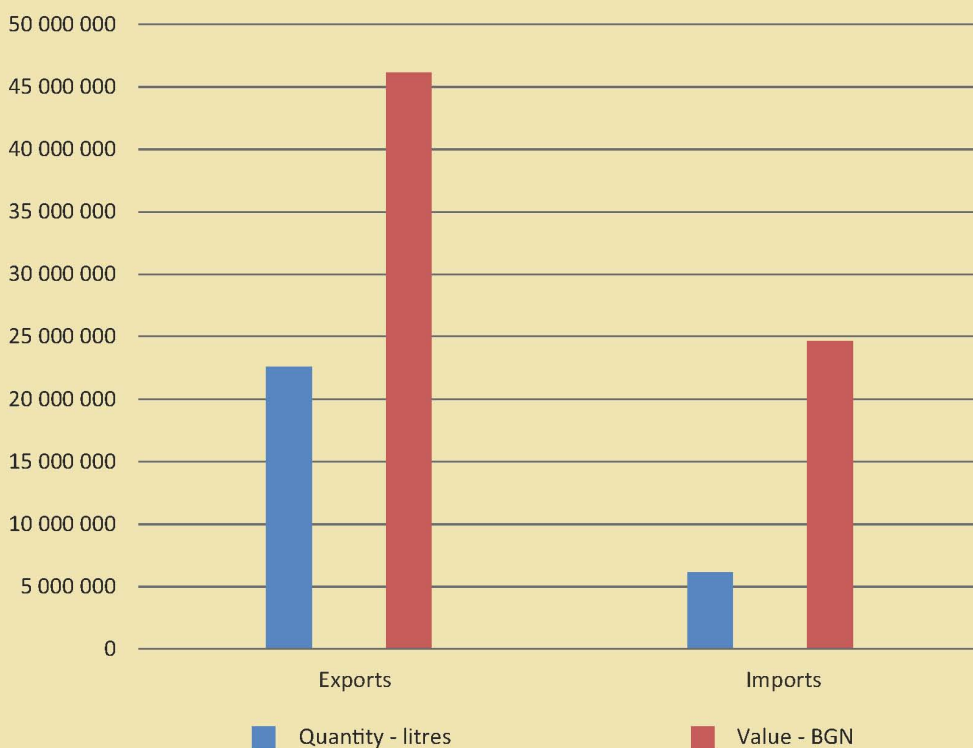
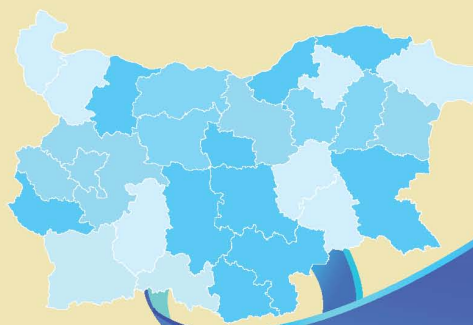


Imports

- *Total*
 - 6.155 Million litres
 - 24.632 Million BGN
- *From EU Member States*
 - 5.176 Million litres
 - 19.918 Million BGN
- *From third countries*
 - 0.978 Million litres
 - 4.714 Million BGN

Exports

- *Total*
 - 22.583 Million litres
 - 46.170 Million BGN
- *To EU Member States*
 - 20.011 Million litres
 - 35.763 Million BGN
- *To third countries*
 - 2.572 Million litres
 - 10.408 Million BGN



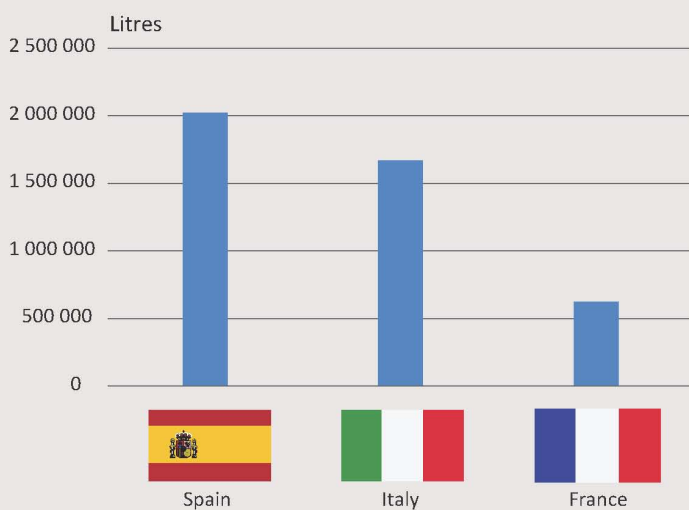


Imports for the January - October 2016 period
(Preliminary data)

Exports for the January - October 2016 period
(Preliminary data)

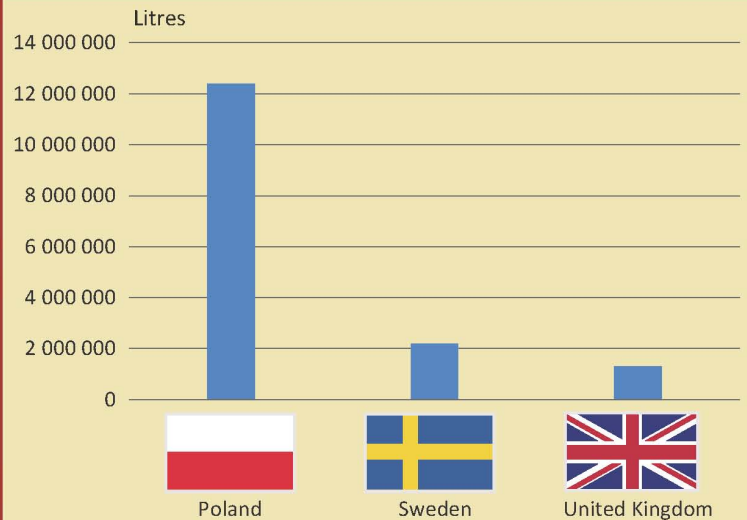
Top 3 trade partner countries

Imports from EU Member States



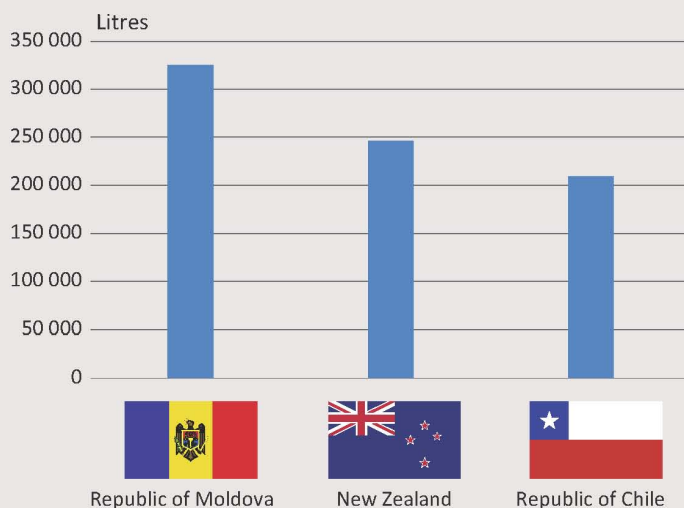
Spanish wine is the most popular imported wine in Bulgaria.

Export to EU Member States



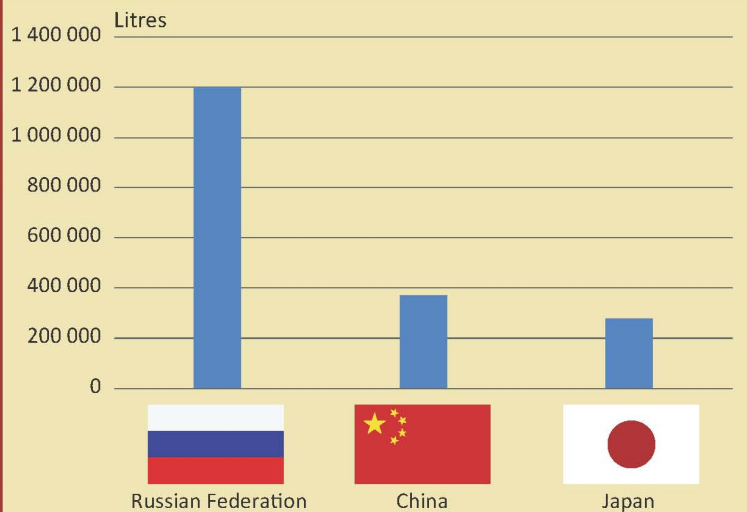
The biggest fans of Bulgarian wine in EU are the Poles.

Imports from non-EU countries



The Republic of Moldova is the largest exporter of wine to Bulgaria among the non-EU countries.

Exports for non-EU countries



Outside of the EU, the largest amount of wine is exported to Russian Federation.



Retail trade and consumption of wine

There were 2 310 retail sales outlets for alcoholic and soft drinks in Bulgaria in 2015



Average prices of wine in Bulgaria for 2015



Bottled
white table wine -
0.75 l - 2.28 BGN



Bottled
dry red wine
of high quality -
0.75 l - 6.29 BGN





The average wine consumption per capita in Bulgarian households was 4.6 L in 2015

In 2015, Bulgarian household bought on average 5.7 L of wine made from grapes at an average price of 4.03 BGN



More information and data could be found at:

- IS INFOSTAT - <https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat/>
- IS Foreign Trade - <http://ftrade.nsi.bg/>
- NSI website - www.nsi.bg