

KEY INDICATORS FOR BULGARIA



National statistical institute

Key indicators for Bulgaria

This update: 3 April 2009

Next update: 30 June 2009

1. Output		2006	2007	2008	Sept.-08	Oct.-08	Nov.-08	Dec.-08	Jan-09	Feb-09
Industrial confidence ^{1.1}	balance	4.1	8.7	6.6	8.7	5.8	0.8	-5.6	-5.9	-5.8
Industrial production ^{1.2}	yoy % ch.*	6.2	9.7	0.9	3.4	-3.3	-9.1	-8.5	-13.3	
		2006	2007	2008	07Q3	07Q4	08Q1	08Q2	08Q3	08Q4
Gross domestic product ^{1.3}	yoy % ch.*	6.3	6.2	6.0	4.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	6.8	3.5
2. Private consumption		2006	2007	2008	07Q3	07Q4	08Q1	08Q2	08Q3	08Q4
Consumer confidence ^{2.1}	balance	-34.4	-31.7	-36.6	-36.8	-33.6	-35.8	-38.5	-38.5	-45.2
		2006	2007	2008	Sept.-08	Oct.-08	Nov.-08	Dec.-08	Jan-09	Feb-09
Retail sales ^{2.2}	yoy % ch.*	12.7	19.4	3.5	1.0	1.0	-1.1	-3.3	-1.7	
		2006	2007	2008	07Q3	07Q4	08Q1	08Q2	08Q3	08Q4
Private consumption ^{2.3}	yoy % ch.*	8.5	5.1	4.5	4.9	3.4	5.7	5.3	5.9	1.8
3. Investment		2006	2007	2008	07Q3	07Q4	08Q1	08Q2	08Q3	08Q4
Capacity utilization in industry ^{3.1}	%	68.4	72.6	74.9	71.9	75.0	75.7	74.4	74.5	70.6
Gross fixed capital formation ^{3.2}	yoy % ch.*	14.7	21.7	20.4	19.7	14.0	15.5	28.6	22.3	15.8
Change in stocks ^{3.3}	% of GDP	5.8	7.0	5.0	7.2	6.1	5.0	8.6	4.6	2.2
4. Labour market		2006	2007	2008	07Q3	07Q4	08Q1	08Q2	08Q3	08Q4
Unemployment ^{4.1}	%	9.0	6.9	5.6	6.6	6.1	6.5	5.8	5.1	5.0
Employed ^{4.2}	yoy % ch.*	4.4	4.6	3.3	3.6	4.6	4.9	3.7	3.1	1.7
Labour costs ^{4.3}	yoy % ch.*	4.7	16.9	19.1	16.3	19.6	21.3	21.6	20.3	19.1
		2006	2007	2008	Sept.-08	Oct.-08	Nov.-08	Dec.-08	Jan-09	Feb-09
Shortage of labour in industry ^{4.4}	%	11.7	16.3	20.0	20.6	23.6	17.5	12.1	13.2	12.2
Wages ^{4.5}	yoy % ch.*	11.3	19.5	21.7	23.4	23.4	19.4	17.9		
5. International transactions		2006	2007	2008	Sept.-08	Oct.-08	Nov.-08	Dec.-08	Jan-09	Feb-09
Export order books in industry ^{5.1}	balance	-39.7	-23.3	-23.1	-20.5	-20.1	-22.6	-29.7	-31.1	-41.0
Exports of goods ^{5.2}	mln. EUR	12011.9	13511.9	15277.5	1403.1	1286.8	1076.2	950.1	811.8	
Imports of goods ^{5.3}	mln. EUR	-17574.1	-20757.2	-24035.8	-2095.3	-2259.1	-1828.7	-1595.5	-1151.1	
Trade balance ^{5.4}	mln. EUR	-5562.3	-7245.3	-8758.3	-692.2	-972.3	-752.5	-645.4	-339.3	
Current account ^{5.5}	mln. EUR	-4652.5	-7267.4	-8634.2	-600.7	-1073.4	-847.2	-867.5	-439.7	
Direct investment (net) ^{5.6}	mln. EUR	6021.5	8283.6	5685.0	398.6	640.7	139.2	345.6	199.9	
Portfolio investment (net) ^{5.7}	mln. EUR	292.2	-518.4	-469.7	-153.6	113.4	-161.7	26.8	-259.9	
		2006	2007	2008	07Q3	07Q4	08Q1	08Q2	08Q3	08Q4
Exports of goods and services ^{5.8}	yoy % ch.*	8.7	5.2	2.9	5.4	6.0	9.2	5.1	3.8	-6.0
Imports of goods and services ^{5.9}	yoy % ch.*	14.0	9.9	4.9	9.3	5.7	5.8	13.7	4.2	-3.2
6. Prices		2006	2007	2008	Sept.-08	Oct.-08	Nov.-08	Dec.-08	Jan-09	Feb-09
HICP ^{6.1}	yoy % ch.*	7.4	7.6	12.0	11.4	11.2	8.8	7.2	6.0	5.4
Producer prices on domestic market (in industry) ^{6.2}	yoy % ch.*	8.7	7.9	13.3	14.4	12.9	7.4	4.7	2.2	
Selling price expectations in industry ^{6.3}	balance	10.8	17.3	17.1	18.1	18.4	12.3	9.6	10.7	5.7
Selling price expectations in retail trade ^{6.4}	balance	18.0	27.5	36.4	38.1	40.4	43.2	6.8	-2.1	0.8
7. Monetary and financial indicators		2006	2007	2008	Sept.-08	Oct.-08	Nov.-08	Dec.-08	Jan-09	Feb-09
SOFIBOR (3 months) ^{7.1}	index	3.69	4.90	7.14	7.32	7.69	7.89	7.74	7.03	6.61
M3 ^{7.2}	yoy % ch.*	26.9	31.2	8.8	19.5	15.0	10.9	8.8	8.3	7.6
Credit to Non-financial Corporations and Households and NPISHs (loans) ^{7.3}	yoy % ch.*	23.7	63.7	32.5	47.8	44.2	39.2	32.5	30.6	27.0
Exchange rate USD/BGN ^{7.4}	value	1.56	1.43	1.34	1.36	1.47	1.54	1.46	1.48	1.53
Nominal effective exchange rate ^{7.5}	index	126.4	127.5	131.2	127.5	127.4	128.0	131.2	132.3	

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

Comments

1. Output

In March 2009 according to the NSI business inquiries the **industrial confidence indicator** fell by 3.2 percentage points compared to its February level. The decrease was due to the lower demand and the pessimistic managers' expectations about the production activity in industry over the next 3 months. At the same time the level of stocks of finished products increased.

In January 2009 **Industrial Production Index** decreased by 13.3 per cent compared to the same month of 2008 (by preliminary data). The greatest production drop - by 27.2 percentage points was recorded in Mining. The decrease in Manufacturing was 15.7 percentage points, and 4.1 percentage points - in Electricity, Gas and Water Supply.

By preliminary operative data the **gross domestic product (GDP)** in the fourth quarter of 2008 amounted to BGN 18 690.7 million at current prices and GDP per capita was BGN 2 440.1. At average for the quarter the exchange rate of BGN 1.488015 for 1 US dollar GDP amounted to USD 12 560.8 million and respectively USD 1 639.8 per capita. GDP recalculated in Euro was EUR 9 556.4 million or EUR 1 247.6 per capita. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2007 the real volume of GDP grew by 3.5%.

2. Private consumption

In January 2009 **the consumer confidence indicator** decreased by 6.7 percentage points in comparison with October 2008 (respectively by 8.0 percentage points for urban consumers and by 4.3 percentage points – for rural). The negativism in consumer's assessments about the current economic situation in the country increased.

In January 2009 the **receipts from sales in Retail Trade** decreased by 1.7% compared to the same month of 2008 (by preliminary data). The decrease was entirely due to the negative rates in the retail sale in the group "Retail sale of audio and video equipment; hardware, paints and glass; electrical household appliances, etc. in specialized stores"

(-7.2%) and in the group "Retail sale of computers, peripheral units and software; telecommunications equipment, etc. in specialized stores" (-13.8%). In all other groups an increase was observed, as for "Dispensing chemist; retail sale of medical and orthopedic goods, cosmetic and toilet articles in specialized stores" it was 0.2%, and for "Retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco" - 5.1%.

In the fourth quarter of 2008 for **individual consumption of the population** was spent 75.8% of the produced GDP. The real increase of the indicator was 1.8% in comparison with the respective quarter of 2007.

3. Investment

In January 2009 **the average capacity utilization in industry** was assessed to be 70.6% which is 3.9 points lower than the October level.

The real increase of the **gross fixed capital formation** by 15.8% in the fourth quarter of 2008 compared to the same period of the previous year determined also a growing relative share of that category to a level of 36.9% of GDP.

4. Labour market

In the fourth quarter of 2008 the total number of **employed persons** aged 15 and over was 3 363.5 thousands and their relative share of the population of the same age - 50.8%. In comparison with the same period of 2007 the number of persons employed increased by 57.1 thousand, and the employment rate - by 1.0 percentage point.

The **unemployed** persons were 177.7 thousand in the fourth quarter of 2008, or 5.0% of the labour force. Compared to the same quarter of the previous year the unemployment rate dropped by 1.1 percentage points and the number of the unemployed persons decreased by 37.6 thousand.

According to the NSI business inquiries in March 2009 12.5% of the industrial enterprises pointed out the **labour shortage** as a factor limiting their activity.

In December 2008 the **average wage and salary** was 566 BGN (by preliminary data) which is with 4.4% higher compared to the previous month. By December 2007 the growth was 17.9%.

5. International transactions

According to the assessments of industrial managers in March 2009 compared to the previous month the assurance of production with **orders from abroad** was worsened.

For January 2009 **the current account deficit** was EUR 439.7 million (1.2% of predicted GDP for 2009), against a deficit of EUR 806.8 million (2.4% of GDP) for the same period in 2008. Main factor for the current account deficit decrease was the lower (by EUR 268.5 million) trade deficit.

The trade balance in January 2009 was negative and amounted to EUR 339.3 million (0.9% of predicted GDP for 2009) compared to a negative balance of EUR 607.8 million (1.8% of GDP) for the same period in 2008.

Exports of goods (FOB) amounted to EUR 811.8 million in January 2009 against EUR 1 114.6 million for the same period in 2008, decreasing by 27.2% on annual basis against a growth rate of 28.2% for the same period in the previous year. **Imports of goods (FOB)** was EUR 1 151.1 million against EUR 1 722.4 million for January 2008, decreasing by 33.2% on annual basis against a growth rate of 19.1% for the same period in the previous year.

The **direct investment abroad** for January 2009 was EUR 6.3 million against EUR 21.6 million for the same period in 2008. The **foreign direct investment in Bulgaria** was EUR 206.2 million (0.6% of predicted GDP for 2009) compared to EUR 329.2 million (1.0% of GDP) for the same period in 2008. They covered 46.9% of the current account deficit for the reference period against 40.8% for January 2008.

For January 2009 the **portfolio investment - assets** increased by EUR 80.3 million, while for the same period in 2008 was registered a decrease of EUR 99.2 million. The **portfolio investment - liabilities** decreased by EUR 179.6 million against a decrease of EUR 2.4 million for January 2008.

In the fourth quarter of 2008 the external balance of goods and services was negative. **The imports of goods and services** exceeded the value of the exports by BGN 4 915.3 million. Compared to the respective quarter of 2007 the **exports of goods and services** decreased in real terms by 6.0% and the imports - by 3.2%.

6. Prices

In February 2009 the **harmonized index of consumer prices** increased totally by 5.4% compared to the same month of 2008, as an increase in prices was registered in all observed groups with the exception of Transport and Communications.

The producer prices on domestic market in industry raised by 2.2% in January 2009 compared to the respective month of 2008. The highest was the producer price index in Electricity, water and gas supply, where the increase was 23.5%.

According to the conjuncture inquiry, for the first time in March the industrial enterprises which foresaw a decrease of **prices** were more than those which considered that the prices would increase in the next months. As a result of that the balance indicator was negative (-3.7%).

7. Monetary and financial indicators

In February 2009 the **three-month interbank market index SOFIBOR** decreased from 7.03 (in January) to 6.61%, whereas the value in February 2008 stood at 6.65%.

The annual growth rate of **the broad money (monetary aggregate M3)** was 7.6% in February 2009 against 8.3% in January as at the end of February M3 amounted to BGN 44.865 billion (62.6% of the predicted GDP for 2009). The narrow money M1 amounted to BGN 17.938 billion as it decreased by 8.4% on annual basis in February toward a decrease of 6.2% in January.

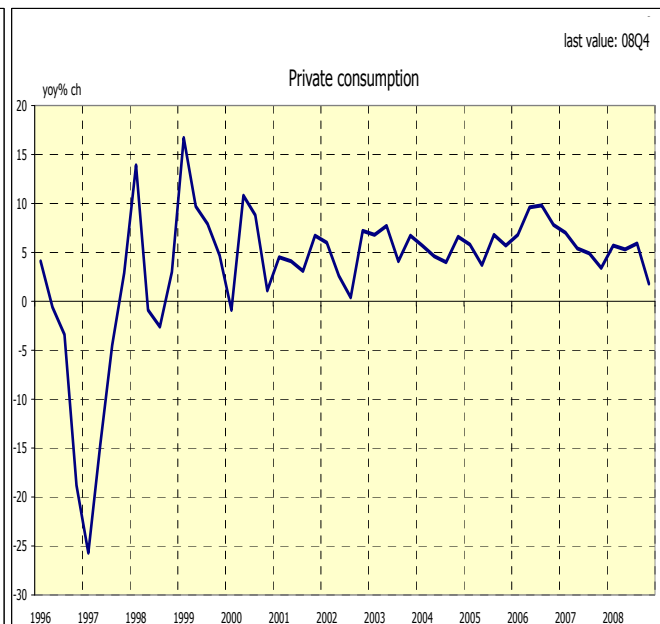
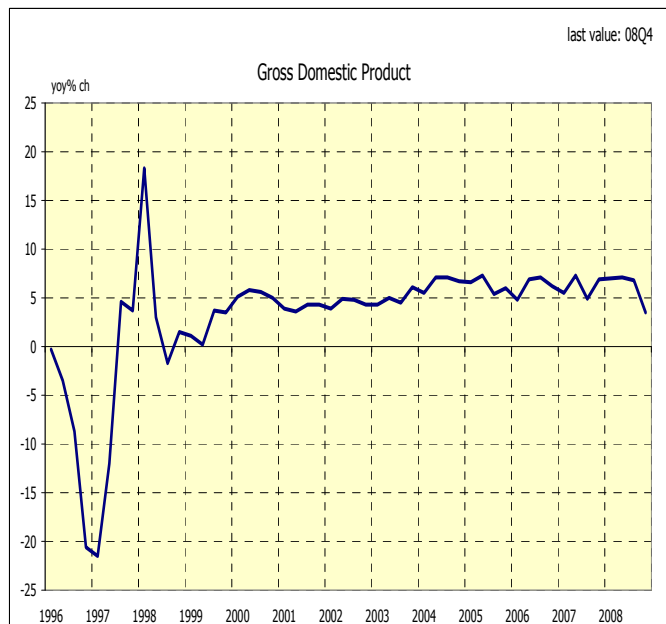
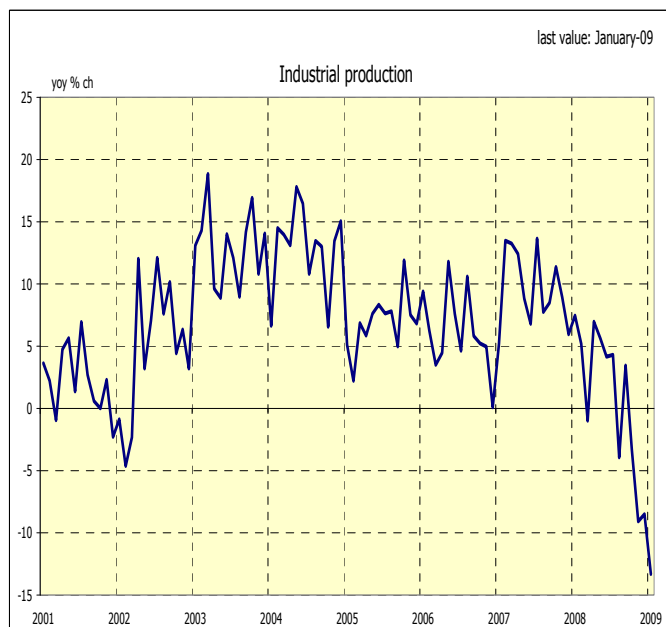
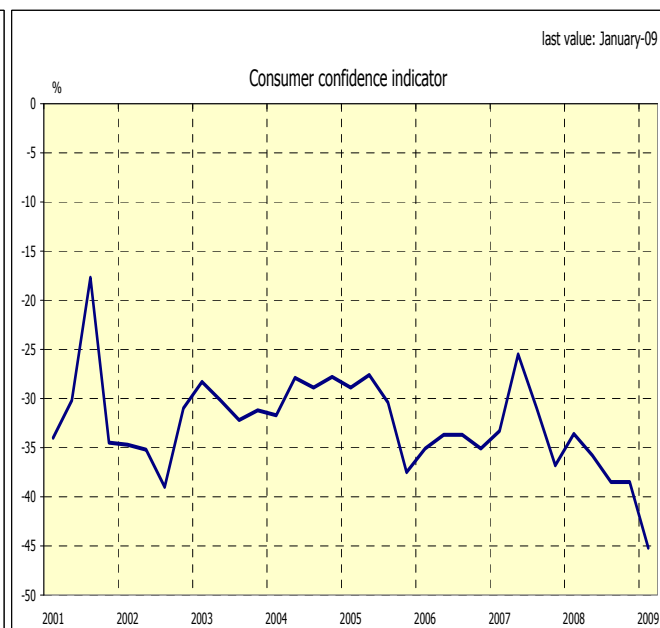
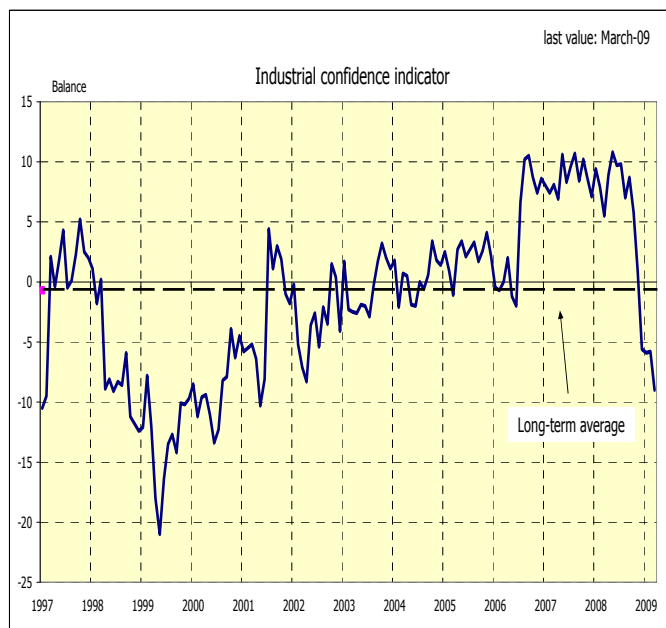
The volume of the **loans to non-financial corporations, households and NPISHs** grew in February 2009 to BGN 48.563 billion (67.7% of the predicted GDP for 2009) and the annual increase was 27.0% toward 30.6% in January 2009. The annual growth rate of the loans to non-financial corporations in February was 29.0% toward 32.0% in the previous month and for the households and NPISHs - 23.7% in February compared to 28.3% in January.

In February 2009 the **exchange rate BGN/USD** increased in comparison with the previous month from 1.48 to 1.53.

KEY INDICATORS FOR BULGARIA

1. OUTPUT

2. PRIVATE CONSUMPTION

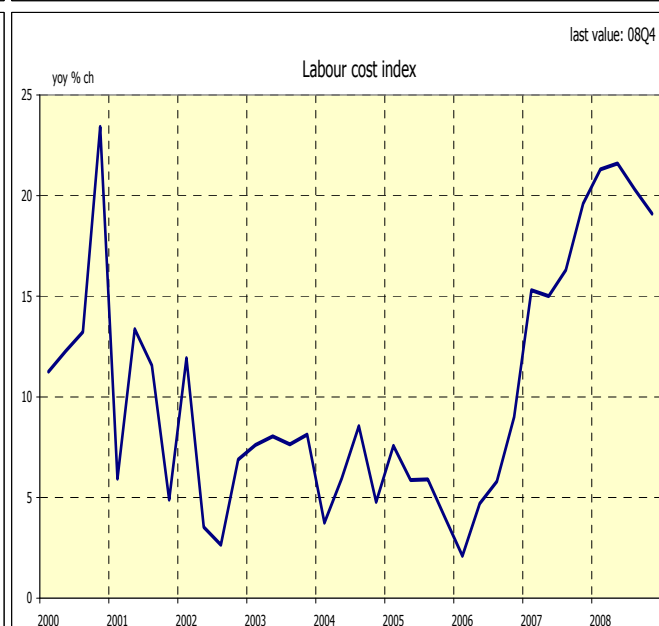
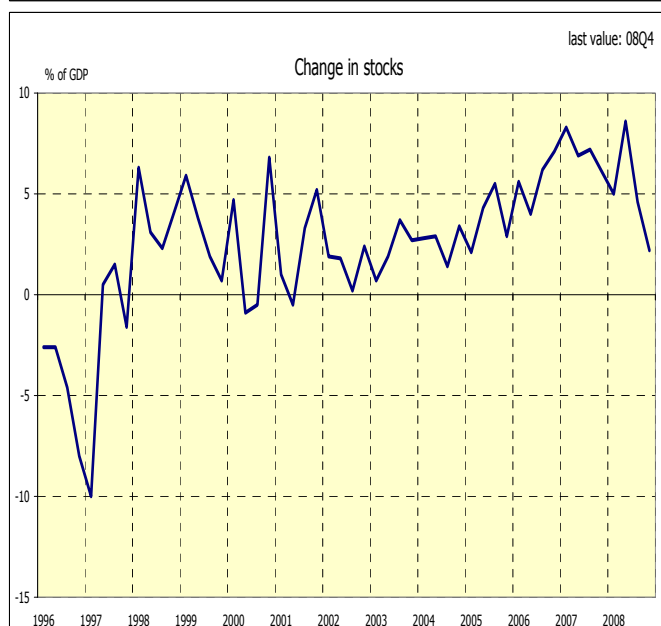
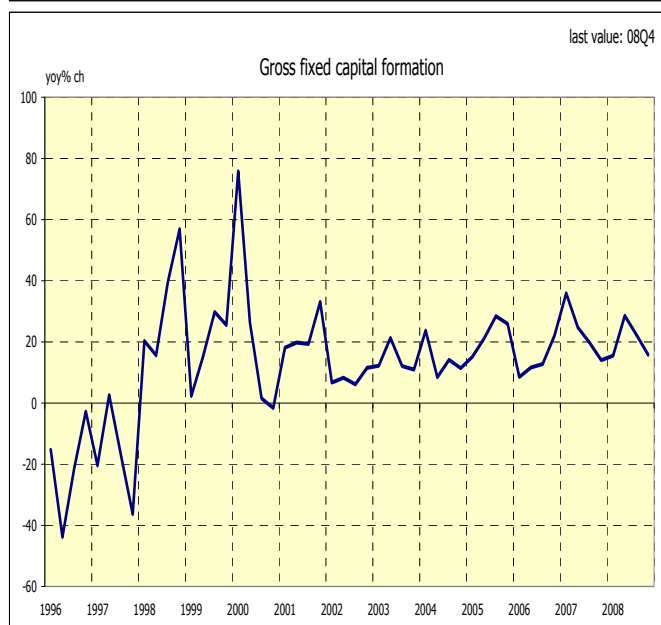
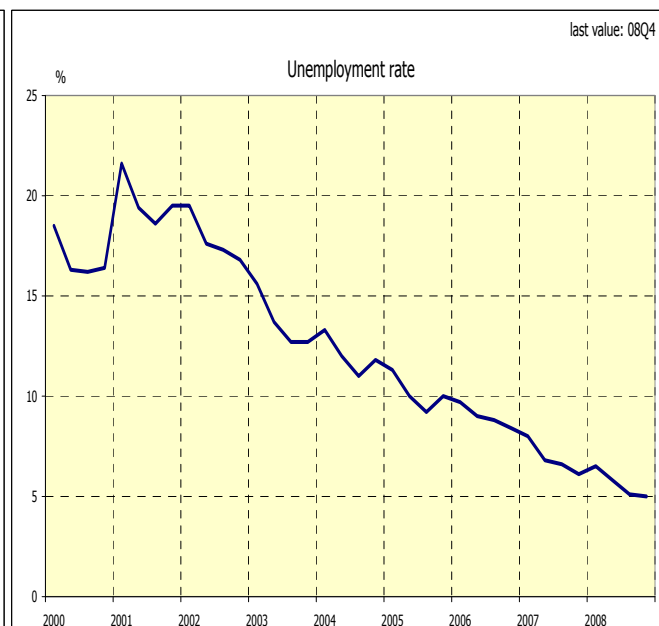
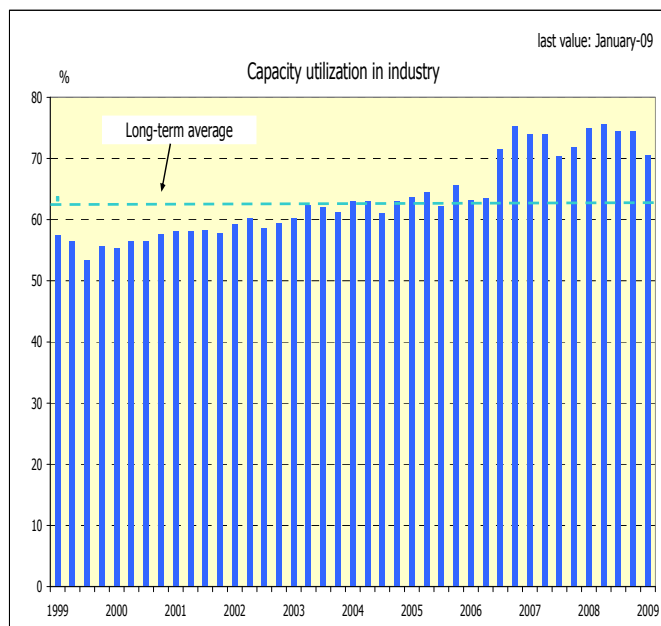


Note: yoy % ch - growth rate compared to the same period of previous year.

KEY INDICATORS FOR BULGARIA

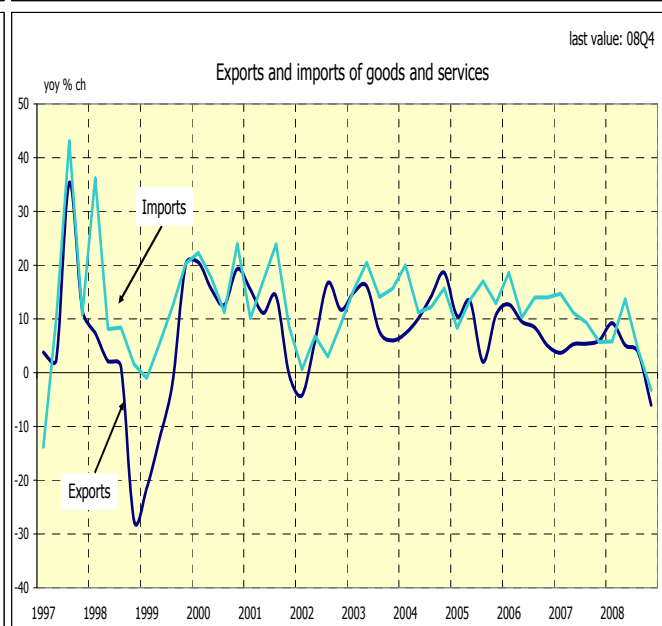
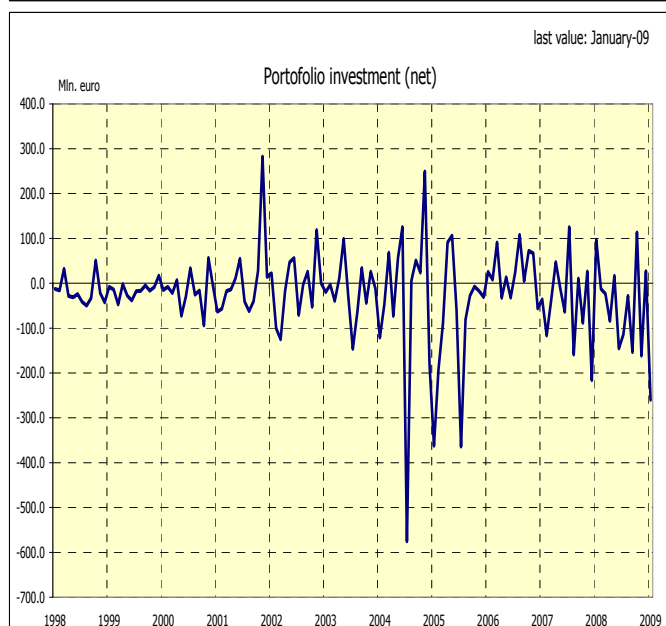
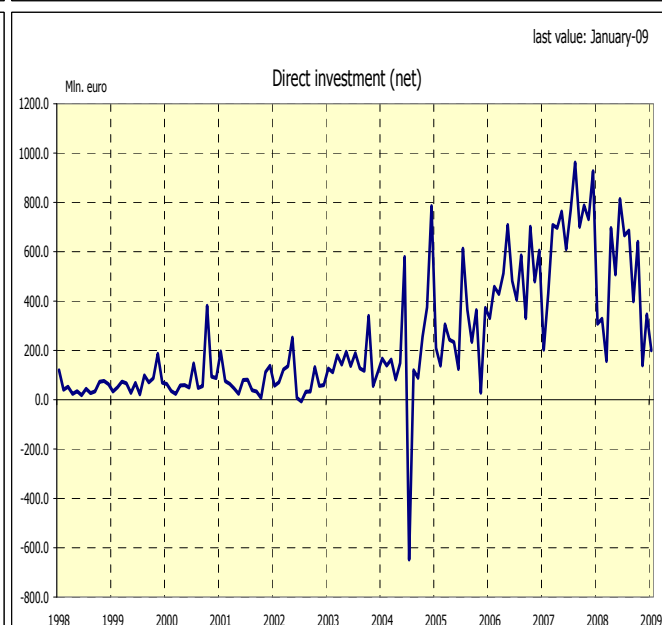
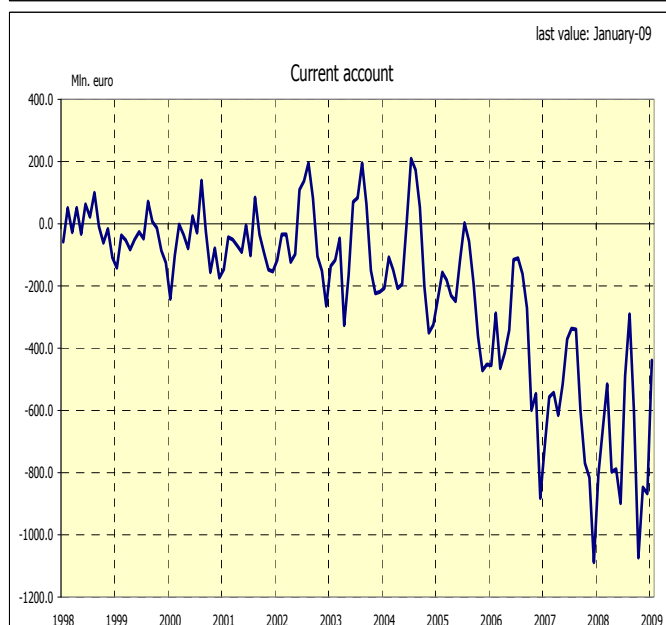
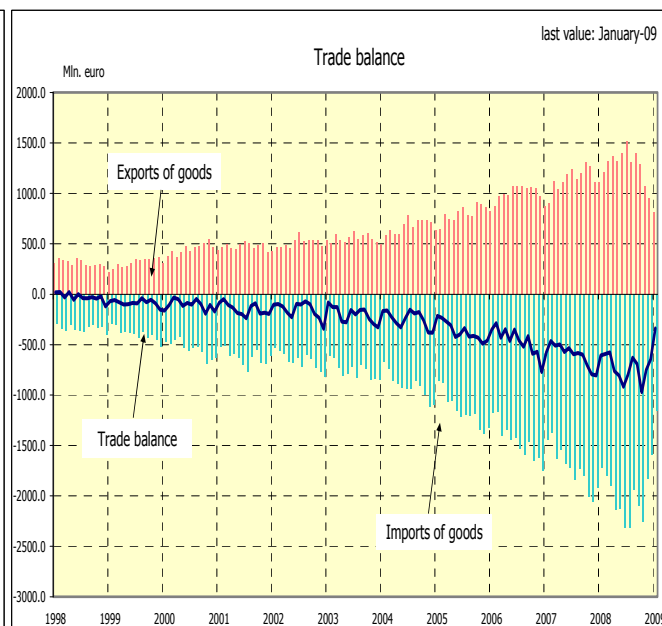
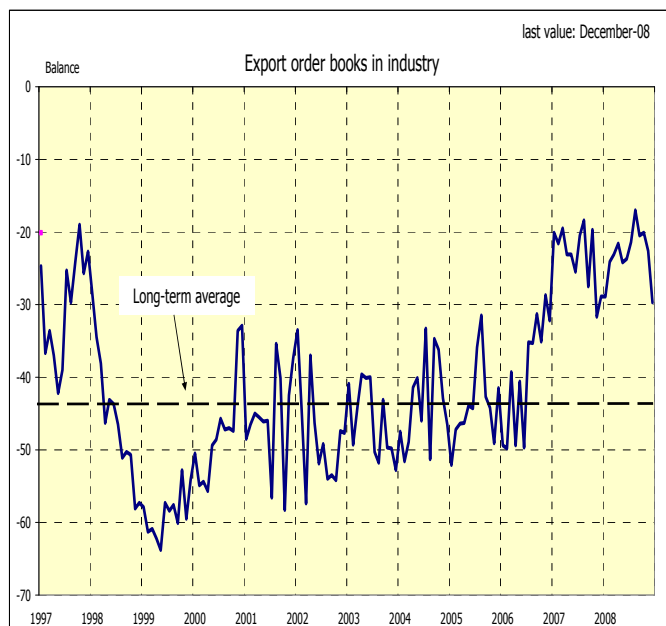
3. INVESTMENT

4. LABOUR MARKET



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

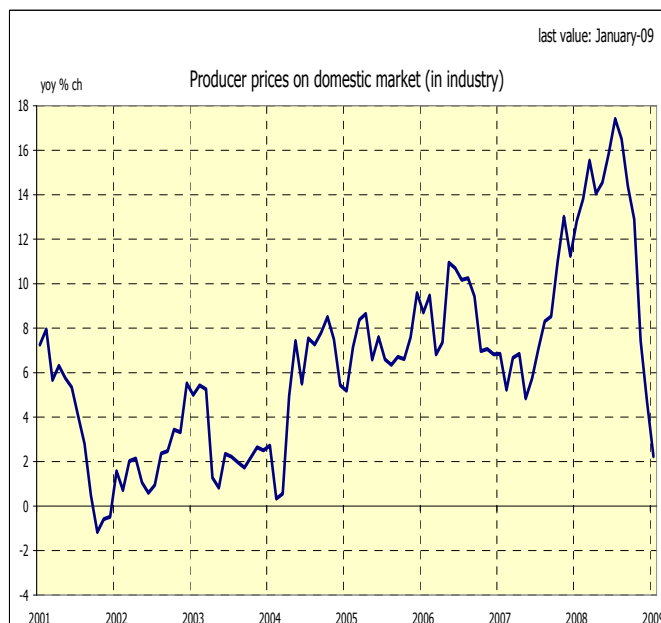
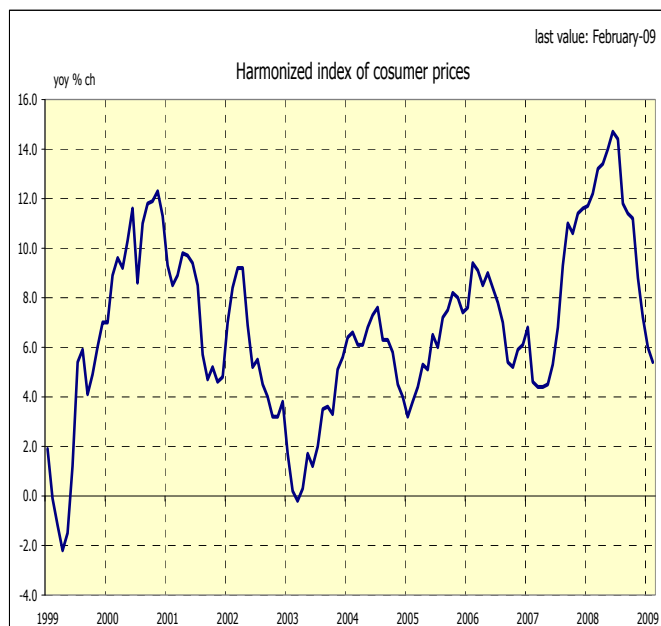
5. INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS



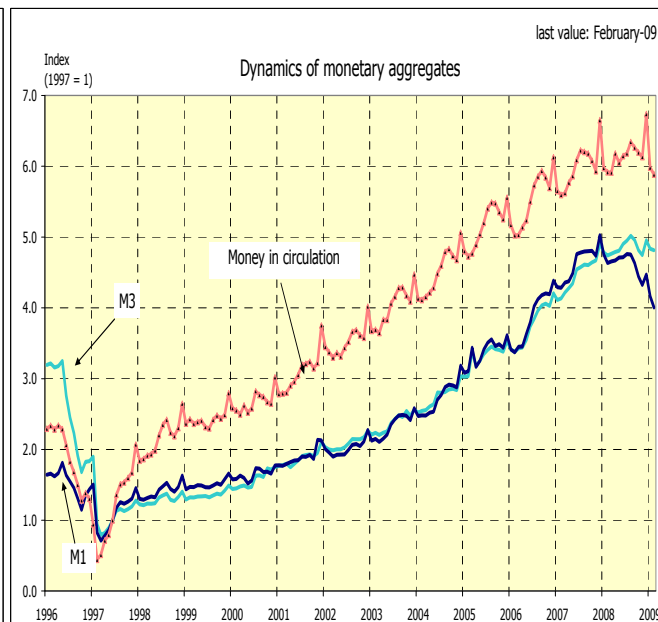
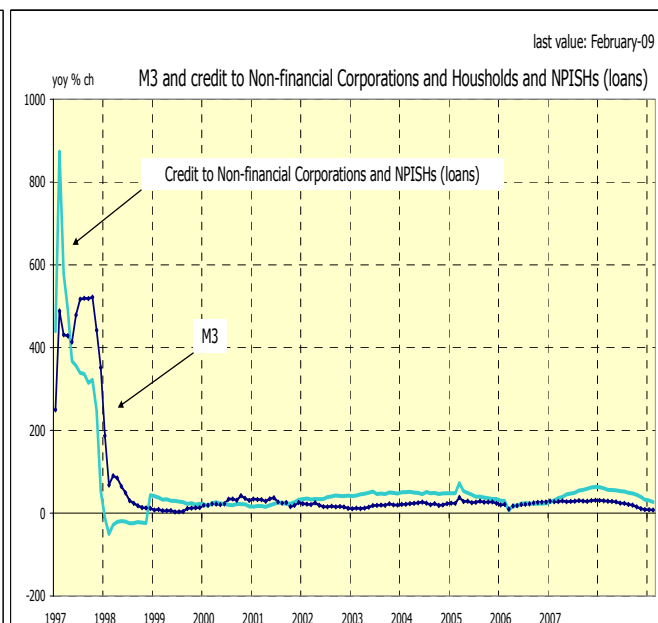
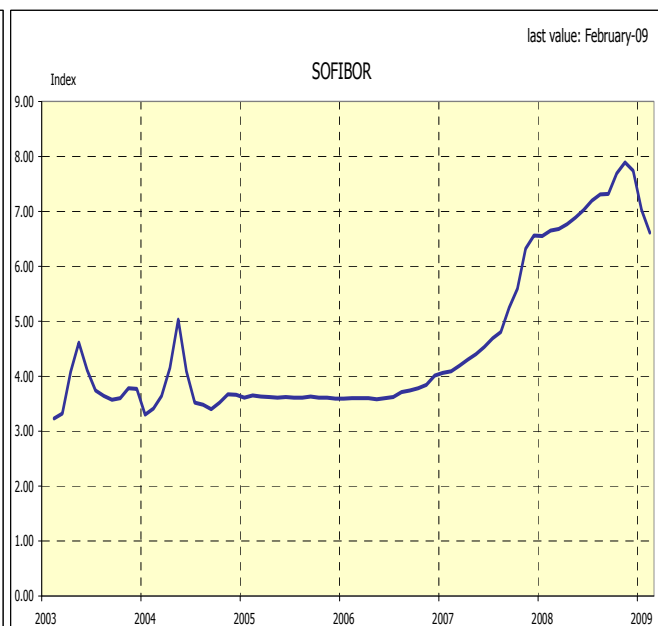
Note: yoy % ch - growth rate compared to the same period of previous year.

KEY INDICATORS FOR BULGARIA

6. PRICES



7. MONETARY AND FINANCIAL INDICATORS



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

KEY INDICATORS FOR BULGARIA



Key indicators for Bulgaria - Explanatory notes			
No	Indicator	Note	Source
1.	Output		
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 previous year	NSI
1.3.	Gross Domestic Product	Growth rate compared to the same period of previous year	NSI
2.	Private consumption		
2.1.	Consumer confidence indicator	Consumer survey. The consumer confidence indicator is an arithmetic average of balances to replies to four questions (financial and economic situation, unemployment and savings over the next 12 months)	NSI
2.2.	Retail sales	Sales in retail trade (excluding motor vehicles), growth rate compared to the same period of previous year	NSI
2.3.	Private consumption	Growth rate compared to the same period of previous year	NSI
3.	Investment		
3.1.	Capacity utilization	Average capacity utilization in industry, in percent 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 previous year	NSI
3.3.	Change in stocks	In percent of GDP	NSI
4.	Labour market		
4.1.	Unemployment	In percent of labour force in Bulgaria (data from Labour force survey)	NSI
4.2.	Employed	Growth rate compared to the same period of 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 labour work force, growth rate compared to the same period of previous year	NSI
4.4.	Shortage of labour	Percent of firms in the industry reporting a shortage of labour as a constraint to production	NSI
4.5.	Wages	Nominal value, growth rate compared to the same period of previous year, average monthly wages of the employees under labour contract	NSI
5.	International transactions		
5.1.	Export order books	Business survey in industry. Balance of positive and negative replies	NSI
5.2.	Exports of goods	Balance of payment, million EUR	BNB
5.3.	Imports of goods	Balance of payment, million EUR	BNB
5.4.	Trade balance	Balance of payment, million EUR	BNB
5.5.	Current account	Balance of payment, million EUR	BNB
5.6.	Direct investment	(net) million EUR, balance of payment	BNB
5.7.	Portfolio investment	(net) million EUR, balance of payment	BNB
5.8.	Exports of goods and services	Growth rate compared to the same period of previous year	NSI
5.9.	Imports of goods and services	Growth rate compared to the same period of previous year	NSI
6.	Prices		
6.1.	Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices	Growth rate compared to the same period of previous year	NSI
6.2.	Producer prices on domestic market (in industry)	Growth rate compared to the same period of previous year	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
7.	Monetary and financial indicators		
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 previous year (monthly value: value at the end of month)	BNB
7.3.	Credit to Non-financial Corporations and Households and NPISHs (loans)	Growth rate compared to the same period of previous year (monthly value: value at the end of month)	BNB
7.4.	Exchange rate USD/BGN	Period averages	BNB
7.5.	Nominal effective exchange rate	Index (June 1997=100)	BNB