



## CRÈCHES IN 2024

The number of detached crèches and groups in kindergartens functioning in the country as of 31.12.2024 was 839, with 33 480 places in them (See Table 1). The number of places in the country has increased by 102, or by 0.3%, compared to the previous year.

There were 731 crèches in the urban areas with 31 271 places and 108 crèches with 2 209 places in the rural areas, respectively. Compared to the previous year, the number of places in crèches in urban areas increased by 0.4%, and those in rural areas decreased by 1.3%.

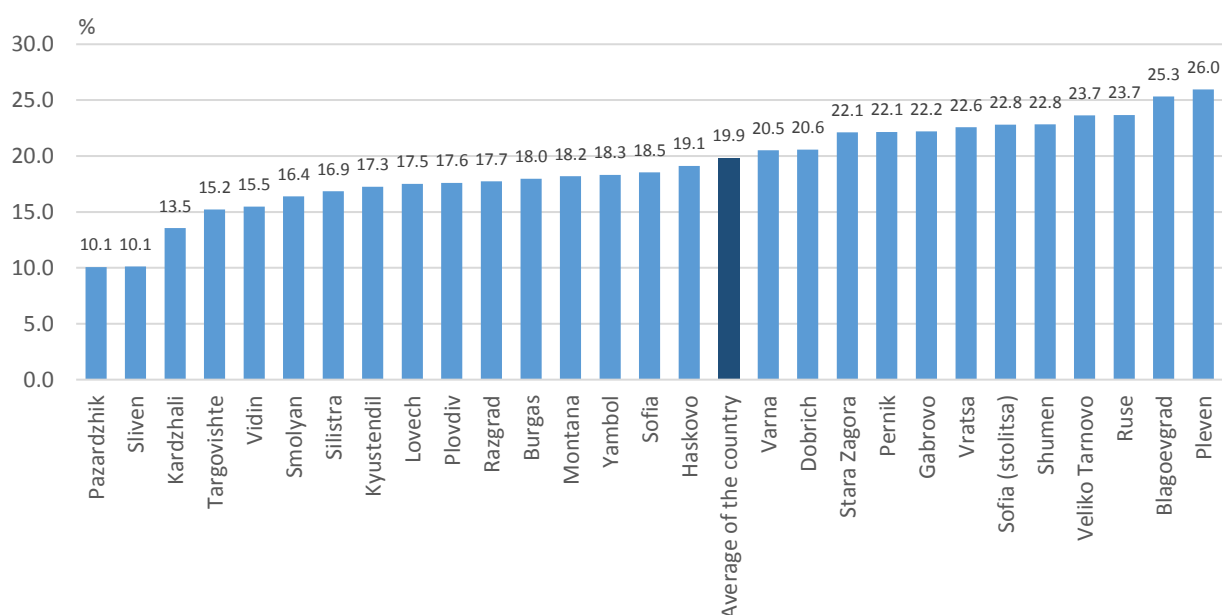
**Table 1. Crèches and places in crèches as of 31.12**

(Number)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Establishments</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>839</b>
<b>Places - total</b>	<b>33764</b>	<b>32575</b>	<b>32856</b>	<b>33193</b>	<b>33378</b>	<b>33480</b>
In detached crèches	14846	14196	14370	14743	14795	14822
In groups in kindergartens	18918	18379	18486	18450	18583	18658
<b>Number of places per 100 children aged up to 3 years</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>19.9</b>

As of 31.12.2024, the number of places per 100 children aged up to 3 years<sup>1</sup> was 19.9. The highest values were registered in the following districts: Pleven (26.0 per 100 children), Blagoevgrad (25.3 per 100 children) and Ruse (23.7 per 100 children) (Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Number of places in crèches per 100 children aged up to 3 years as of 31.12.2024 by district**



<sup>1</sup> The indicator is calculated with preliminary data on the population.

## CRÈCHES IN 2024

30 367 children were accommodated there at the end of the year. 15 635 of them were boys and 14 732 were girls. Compared to the last year, the number of children in crèches decreased by 219, or by 0.7%.

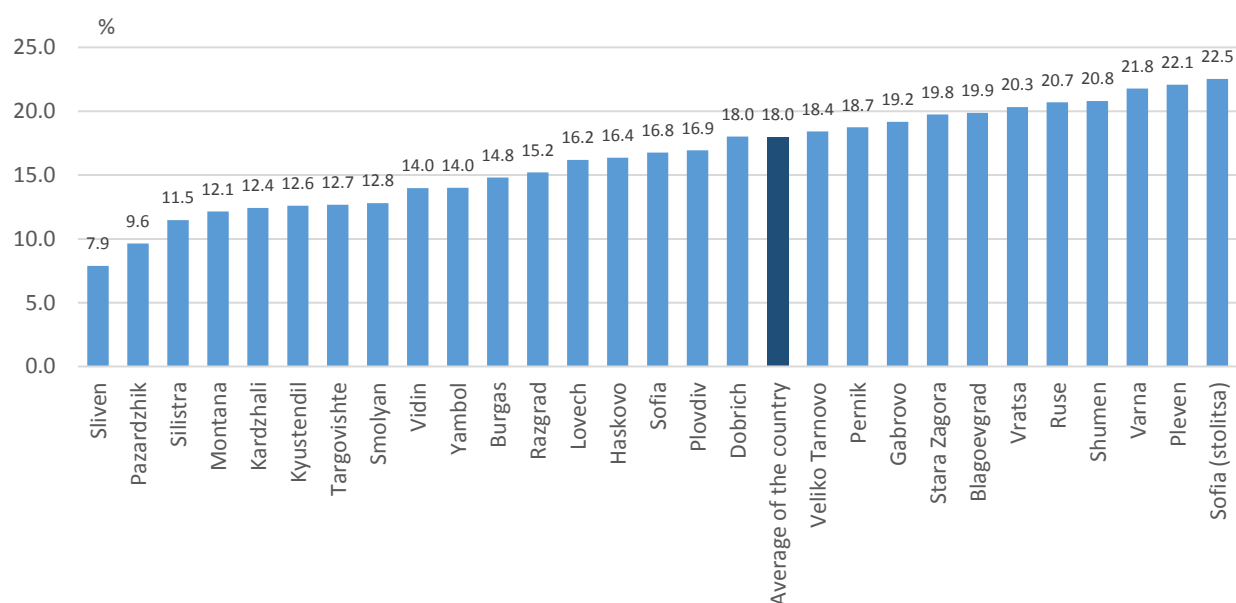
**Table 2. Children in crèches**

(Number)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Entrants during the years</b>	<b>30241</b>	<b>25715</b>	<b>27953</b>	<b>29080</b>	<b>29075</b>	<b>29070</b>
<b>Children as of 31.12.</b>	<b>32185</b>	<b>29238</b>	<b>29724</b>	<b>30544</b>	<b>30586</b>	<b>30367</b>
Boys	16677	15169	15347	15857	15810	15635
Girls	15508	14069	14377	14687	14776	14732

The coverage<sup>2,3</sup> of children brought up in crèches at the end of 2024 was 18.0%. The highest was the indicator for the districts of Sofia (stolitsa) (22.5%), Pleven (22.1%) and Varna (21.8%) (Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Coverage of children brought up in crèches per 100 children aged up to 3 years as of 31.12.2024 by district**



The distribution of children raised in crèches by age remained unchanged in 2024. The highest was the share of children aged 2 years - 80.0%, and the smallest was the share of children aged up to 1 year - 0.1%.

7 901 medical and non-medical specialists worked on a basic labour contract in crèches at the end of 2024 in order to raise, educate and train the children. The number of Health care professionals and other medical specialists was 3 482, as 91.9% of them were nurses.

<sup>2</sup> The indicator was expressed by the ratio of the number of children aged up to 3 years brought up in detached crèches and groups in kindergartens per 100 children of the same age group in the total population.

<sup>3</sup> The indicator is calculated with preliminary data on the population.

### **Methodological notes**

The survey 'Crèches' is an exhaustive survey carried out by the National Statistical Institute annually. Detached crèches as well as groups in kindergartens are covered.

The sources of data are detached crèches and groups in kindergartens. Data on personnel, places in crèches and the number of children, as well as their distribution by age, are collected. Crèches are set up to support families in raising children up to the age of three years and to ensure their normal physical and mental development in accordance with the Law on Health and Ordinance No. 26/18.11.2008 of the Minister of Health.

Crèches are organizationally distinct structures, where medical and other specialists raise, educate and train children aged from three months to three years. Groups for children aged between 3 months and 3 years could be opened at daily and weekly kindergartens as the organization of work there does not differ from the work of detached crèches.

When analyzing crèches data, the following has to be taken into account that the number of establishments and places in them changes not only as a result of openings and closures, but also due to conversions or mergers of establishments or groups.

Additional statistical information and data from the Survey on crèches are available in IS Infostat ([https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat/pages/module.jsf?x\\_2=60](https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat/pages/module.jsf?x_2=60)) as well as on NSI's website ([www.nsi.bg](http://www.nsi.bg)), section 'Health'.