



National Statistical Institute

Children in Bulgaria



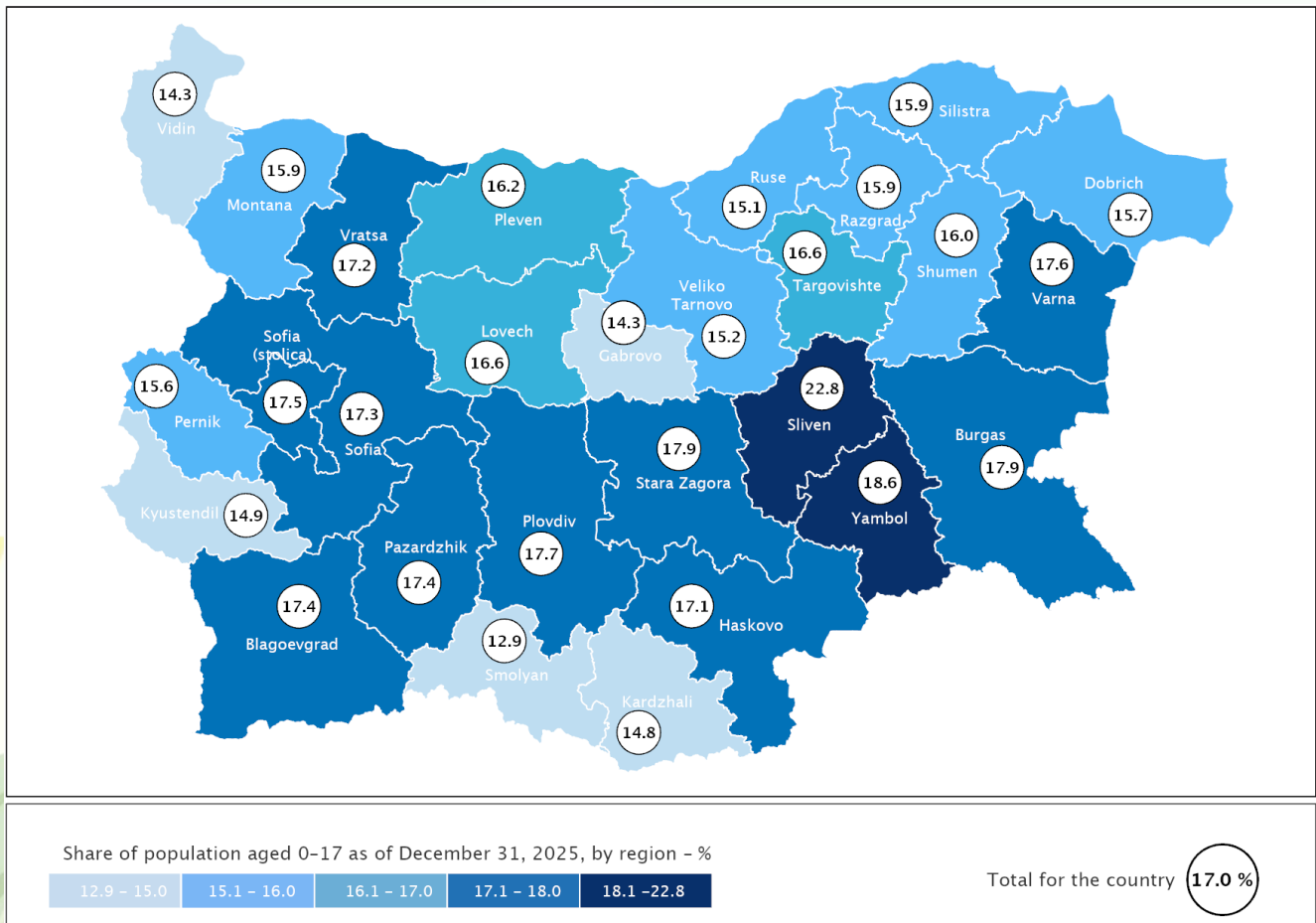
2025



1. POPULATION

As of 31.12.2025, the children up to 17 years of age in the country were 1 094 629, or 17.0% of the total population number. A total of 824 069 children (75.3%) lived in urban areas, while 270 560 (24.7%) lived in rural areas.

Figure 1. Share of population aged 0-17 as of December 31, 2025



The children up to 15 years of age in the country were 891 674, or 13.9% of the total population number. The share of the population under 15 years of age was highest in the districts of Sliven - 18.7% and Yambol - 15.2% of the district population. The lowest share was registered in the districts Smolyan - 10.0% and Vidin - 11.4%.

The young people aged 15 to 17 years were **202 955** (3.2% of the total population and 18.5% of all children aged up to 17).

1.1. Fertility

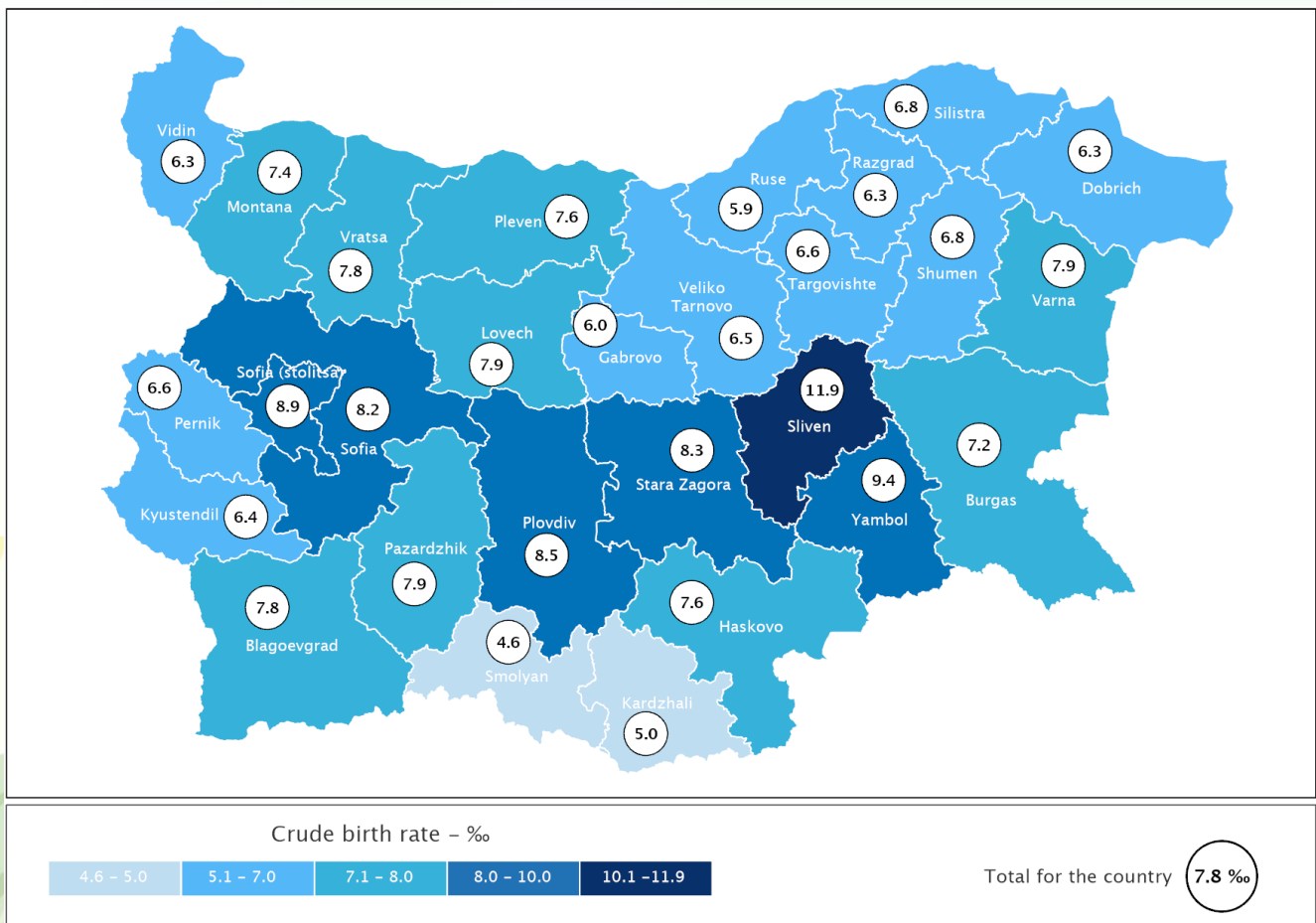
There were 50 496 children born in 2025, of which 50 241 (99.5%) - live-born. The number of live births decreased by 3 187 children, or 6.0% compared to the previous year.

The crude birth rate in 2025 was 7.8‰. The number of live-born males (25 763) was by 1 285 higher than the live-born females (24 478), or 950 females corresponded to 1 000 born males.

The number of live-born children in urban areas was 37 182 and in rural areas - 13 059. The crude birth rate in urban areas was 7.8‰ and in rural areas - 7.7‰.

In Bulgaria, the highest crude birth rate was in the districts of Sliven - 11.9‰, and Yambol - 9.4‰. The crude birth rate was the lowest in the districts of Smolyan - 4.6‰, and Kardzhali - 5.0‰.

Figure 2. Crude birth rate in 2025



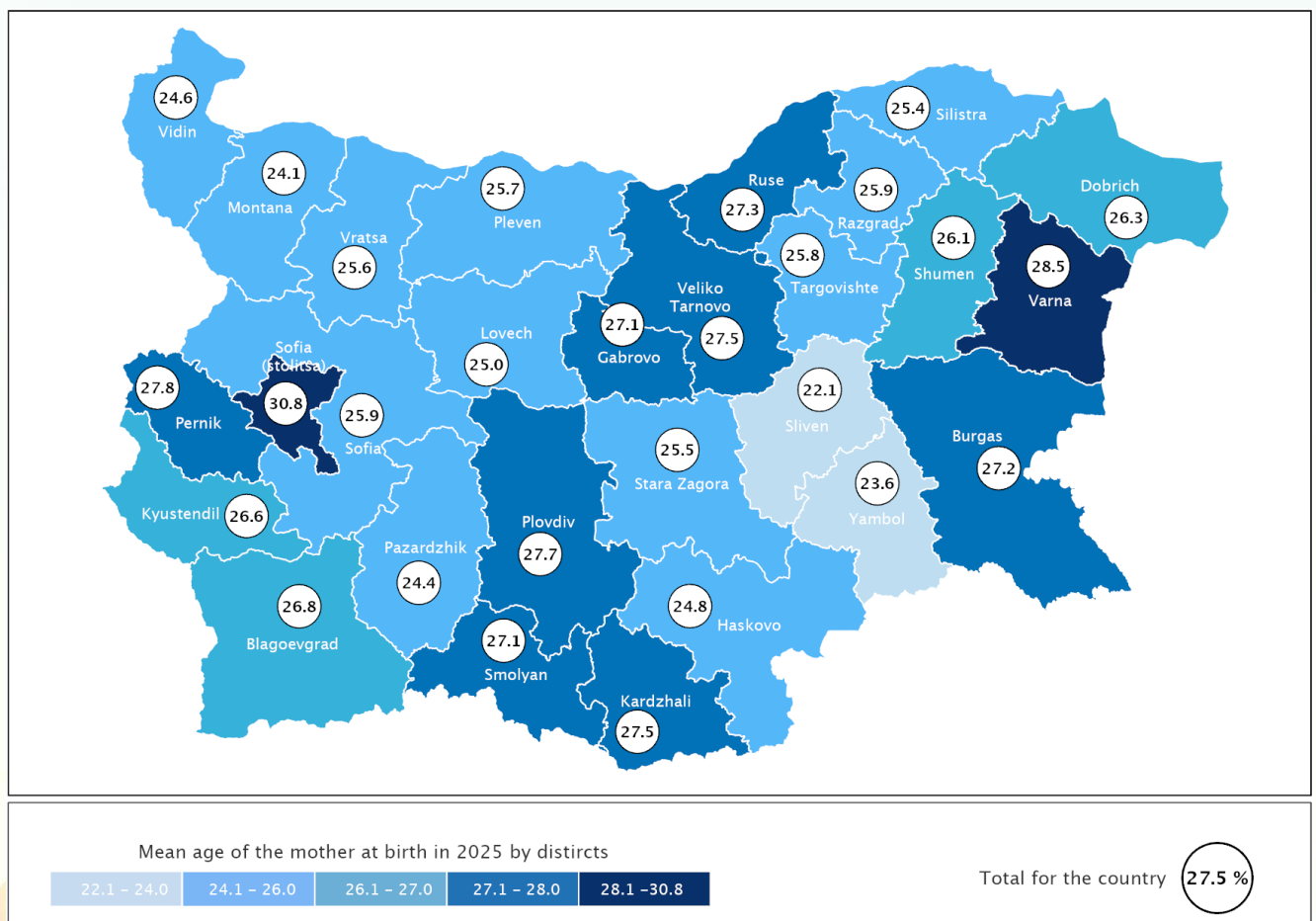
The number of women in fertile age (15 - 49 completed years), or the size and fertility of the fertile contingents in the country, considerably influences the fertility levels and the character of population reproduction.

The number of women in fertile age as of 31.12.2025 was 1 246 560. It had decreased by 11 thousand compared to the previous year. The number of live-born children born by mothers aged below 18 years decreased from 2 817 in 2024 to 2 636 in 2025. The number of live-born children born by mothers aged 40 and more years decreased from 2 528 in 2024 to 2 469 in 2025.

Total fertility rate (TFR)¹ is one of the basic indicators characterising the fertility. The average number of live-born children per woman in 2025 was 1.63.

The mean age of women at first birth was 27.5 in 2025. The mean age of women at first birth had varied from 22.1 in the Sliven district to 30.8 in the Sofia (stolitsa) district.

Figure 3. Mean age of the mother at birth in 2025 by districts



¹ Average number of live-born children, whom a mother would give birth to during her entire fertile period according to the age-specific fertility rates during the reporting year. The total fertility rate, calculated on the basis of the fertile contingent of women, which includes women aged 15 - 49 years of age.

The number of children born outside marriage in 2025 was **31 032**, or **61.5%** of the total number of births. The share of extramarital births in rural areas (68.1%) was higher than that in urban areas (59.1%). For 80.6% of the extramarital births, data on the fathers exist, i.e. most probably the children are growing up in families with parents cohabiting without marriage.

The highest share of extramarital births was registered in the districts of Vidin (78.2%) and Lovech (78.0%). The share of extramarital births was lower than 50.0% in the districts of Kardzhali (38.0%) and Razgrad (45.9%).

1.2. Mortality

233 children up to 1 year of age died in 2025 and the infant mortality rate was 4.6‰. In comparison with 2015, the infant mortality rate was 6.6‰.

Regionally, the lowest infant mortality rates were recorded in Veliko Tarnovo and Razgrad, respectively 1.5‰ and 1.6‰, and the highest in Silistra (12.7‰) and Lovech (11.5‰).

1.3. Marriages and divorces

There were 20 594 juridical marriages registered in 2025, or 49 less than the previous year. The marriage rate² was 3.2‰. Nearly three quarters of the total number of marriages (15 320) were registered among the urban population.

The mean age at first marriage in 2025 was 34.0 for males and 31.1 years for females. Compared to the previous year, the mean age at first marriage had increased by 0.3 years for males and by 0.2 for females. 83.6% of the females and 83.4% of the males had married for the first time in 2025. The most marriages per 1 000 people of the population were registered in the districts of Sofia (stolitsa) - 4.0‰ and Razgrad - 3.6‰. The marriage rate was lowest in the district of Pleven - 2.3‰.

The number of divorces in 2025 was 8 298, or 352 less than in 2024. Highest was the number of divorces by 'mutual agreement' (67.2%), followed by divorces due to 'incompatibility of temperament' (20.5%) and 'virtual parting' (11.7%). The average duration of a marriage before the divorce in 2025 was 14.9 years.

1.4 Internal migration

In 2025, a total of 100 203 persons changed their residence within the country, including 19 846 children aged 0 - 17.

The largest movement was between cities (7 397 children). A total of 5 819 children moved from rural to urban areas, and 4 139 from urban to rural areas.

² Number of marriages per 1 000 population.

By the end of 2025, 40.8% of the migrating children had settled in the regions of Sofia (capital), Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Burgas, and Varna.

1.5 International migration

In 2025, 9 555 people emigrated from Bulgaria, including 787 children. The most preferred destinations for immigrants - adults and children (0 - 17) were Turkey (28.8%), the Russian Federation (8.7%), and Germany (8.2%).

The flow of immigrants includes both Bulgarian citizens who had returned to the country and citizens of other countries who had received a permit or status for residence in the country. In 2025, 44 640 people immigrated to Bulgaria, including 7 416 children (16.6%). The highest numbers of child immigrants came from Ukraine - 1 376 or 18.6%, Turkey - 1 177 (15.9%), Germany 1 119 (15.1%), and the United Kingdom - 600 (8.1%).



2. HEALTHCARE

2.1. Crèches

The number of detached crèches and groups in kindergartens functioning in the country as of 31.12.2025 was 872, with 34 692 places in them. The number of places in the country had increased by 1 212, or by 3.6%, compared to 2024 (see Table 1).

There were 763 crèches with 32 424 places in the urban areas and 109 crèches with 2 268 places in the rural areas, respectively. Compared to the previous year, the number of places in crèches in the urban areas increased by 3.7%, and those in rural areas increased by 2.7%.

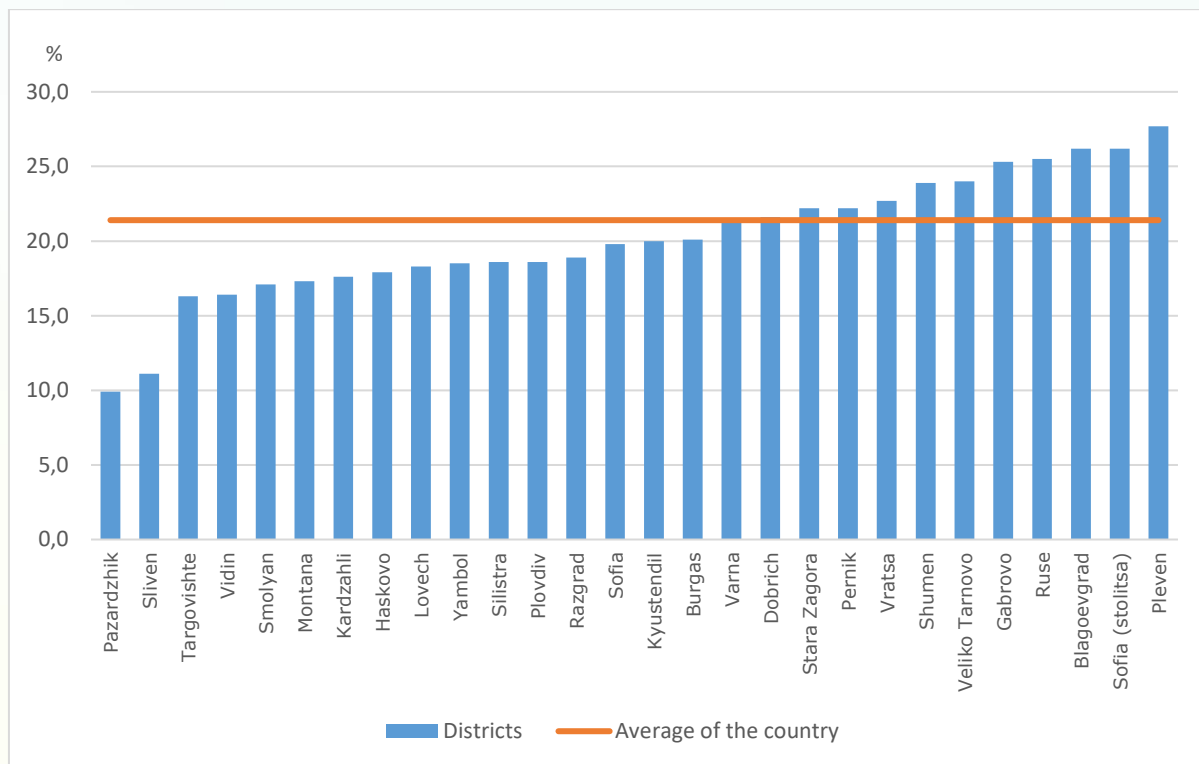
Table 1. Crèches and places

(Number)

Establishments	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Places						
Establishments	838	833	835	835	839	872
Places - Total	32575	32856	33193	33378	33480	34692
In detached crèches	14196	14370	14743	14795	14822	15547
In groups in kindergartens	18379	18486	18450	18583	18658	19145
Number of places per 100 children aged up to 3 years	17.7	18.2	19.5	19.5	19.8	21.4

As of 31.12.2025, the number of places average for the country was 21.4 per 100 children aged up to 3 years. The highest value was registered in the district of Pleven - 27.7 per 100 children and in Blagoevgrad and Sofia (stolitsa) - 26.2 per 100 children each (see Figure 4).

Figure 4. Number of places per 100 children aged up to 3 years as of 31.12.2026



31 098 children were accommodated there at the end of the year. 16 142 of them were boys and 14 956 were girls. Compared to the last year, the number of children in crèches increased by 731, or by 2.4% (see Table 2).

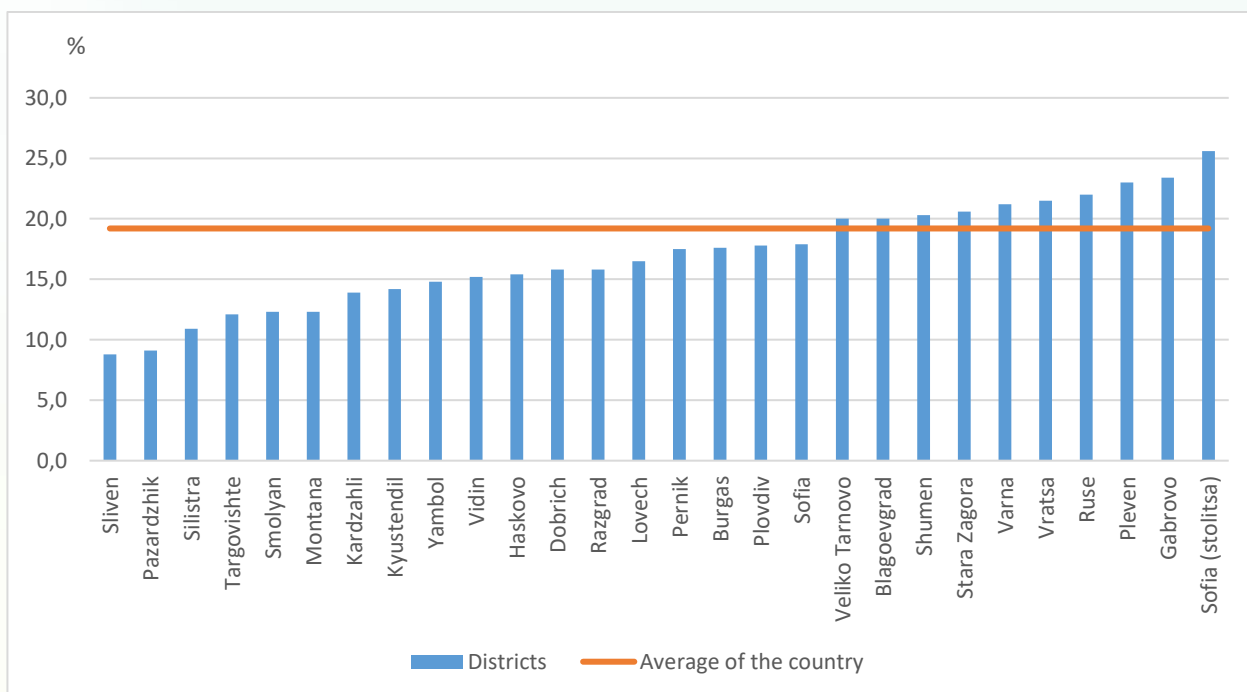
Table 2. Children in crèches

(Number)

Number	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Entrants during the years	25715	27953	29080	29075	29070	29316
Children as of 31.12.	29238	29724	30544	30586	30367	31098
Boys	15169	15347	15857	15810	15635	16142
Girls	14069	14377	14687	14776	14732	14956

The coverage³ of children brought up in crèches at the end of 2025 was 19.2%. The highest was the indicator for the districts of Sofia (stolitsa) - 25.6%, Gabrovo - 23.4%, Pleven - 23.0%, and Ruse - 22.0% (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Coverage of children brought up in crèches as of 31.12.2025 by districts



The distribution of children raised in crèches by age remained unchanged in 2025. The highest was the share of children aged 2 years - 79.9%, and the smallest was the share of children aged up to 1 year - 0.1%.

8 028 medical and non-medical specialists worked on a basic labour contract in crèches at the end of 2025 in order to raise, educate and train the children. The number of Health care professionals and other medical specialists was 3 370, as 91.3% of them were nurses (see Table 3).

³ 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.

Table 3. Health care professionals, other medical specialists, and other non-medical personnel in the crèches as of 31.12.

(Number)

Years	Health care professionals and other medical specialists			Other non-medical personnel
	Total	including		
		nurses	midwives	
2020	3668	3433	158	4008
2021	3651	3403	181	4113
2022	3675	3434	183	4262
2023	3607	3317	193	4357
2024	3482	3200	190	4412
2025	3370	3076	249	4652

2.2. Homes for medico-social care for children

As of 31 December 2025, 97 children were accommodated in homes for medical and social care for children, including 48 boys and 49 girls. Compared to the previous year, their number decreased by 18.5%. The age distribution is as follows: under 1 year - 24 children; 1 year - 15 children; 2 years - 8 children; 3 years and over - 50 children.

As part of the national deinstitutionalisation policy, the removal of all children from these institutions and their closure is planned.



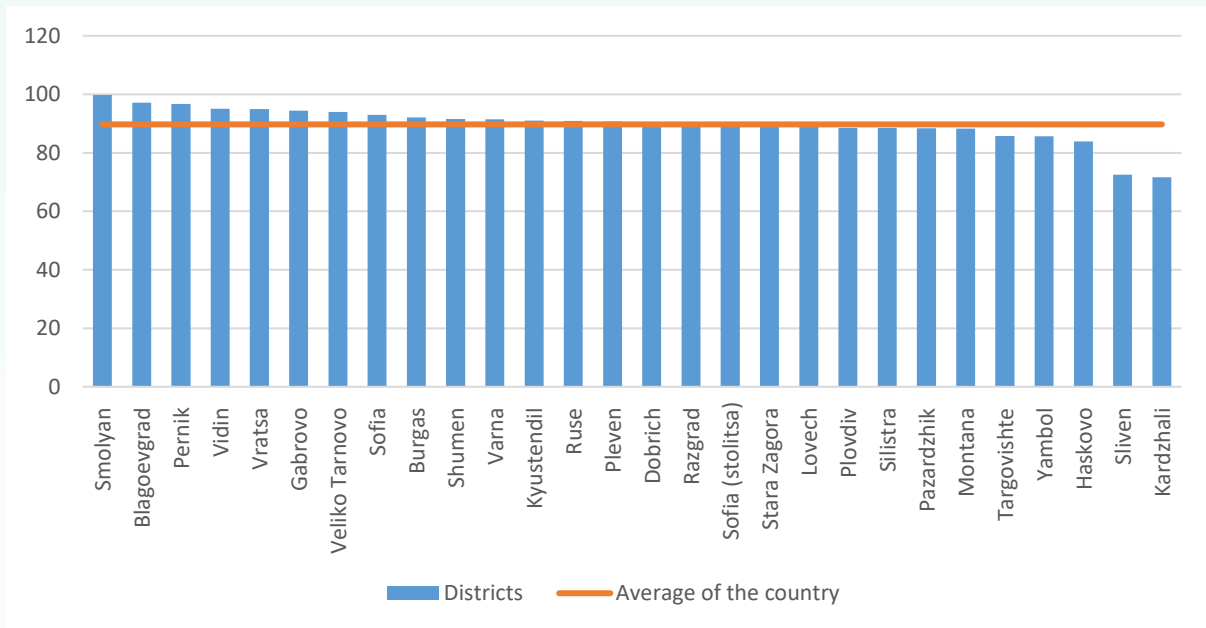
3. EDUCATION

3.1. Pre-primary education

As of 31.12.2025, there were 1 829 independent kindergartens in the country, of which 130 private. In pre-primary education, conducted in kindergartens and preparatory groups at schools, were enrolled 215.4 thousand children, of whom 51.4% were boys.

The coverage of children at this education level estimated by the net enrolment rate⁴ for the 2025/2026 school year was 89.7%. The highest was in Smolyan district (99.8%) and the lowest - in Kardzhali district (71.6%).

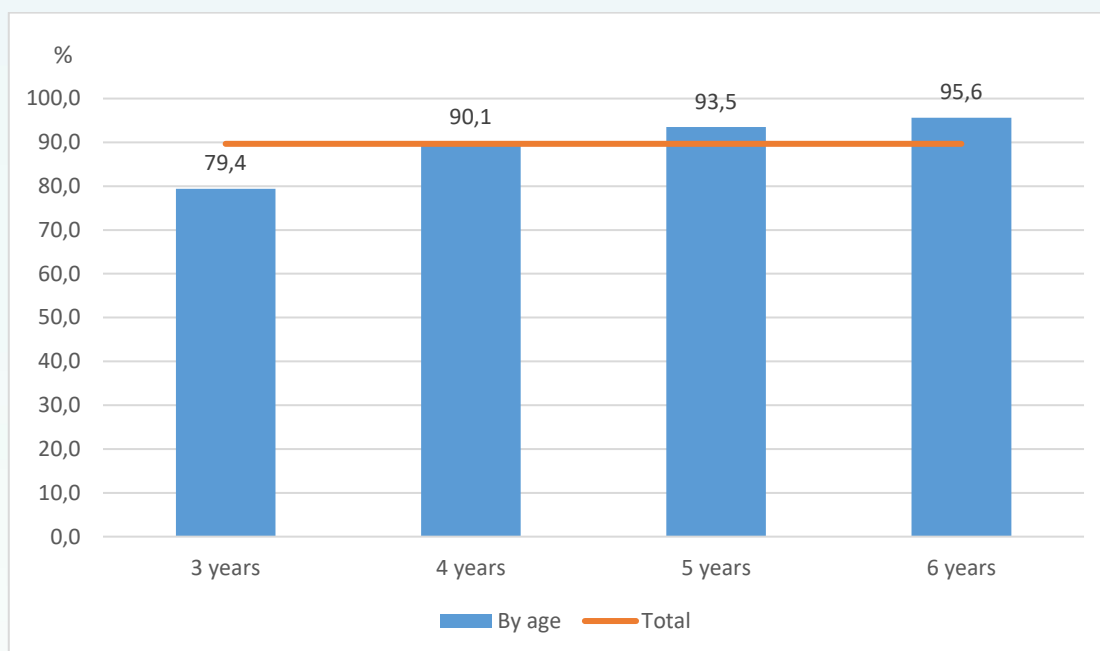
Figure 6. Net enrolment rate of the children in pre-primary education for the 2025/2026 school year (%)



Despite the gradual introduction of compulsory pre-primary education from the age of 4, the enrolment rate did not reach full coverage (100%) in any age group, but increased from 90.1% among 4-year-olds to 95.6% among 6-year-olds.

⁴ The rate is calculated as a share of children enrolled in pre-primary education in the 3 - 6 age group (including 6-year-old children enrolled in the 1st grade) relative to the total population in the same age group.

Figure 7. Enrolment rate of the children in pre-primary education by age, 2025/2026 school year



In 2025/2026 school year, 6 523 children were enrolled in private educational institutions, or 3.0% of the total number of children in pre-primary education.

The teaching personnel employed in pre-primary education were 21.2 thousand persons. Kindergarten teachers were 84.9% of all personnel in pre-primary education. Women predominated among kindergarten teachers (99.5%).

3.2. School education

As of 31.12.2025, there were 2 319 schools operating in the country, including 125 primary schools, 1 103 basic schools, 67 integrated schools, 115 upper secondary schools, 499 secondary schools, 21 schools of arts, 24 sports schools, and 357 vocational gymnasiums. Compared with the previous year, the total number of schools decreased by 10.

The number of students enrolled in all types of schools was 712.3 thousand, of which 16.3 thousand were enrolled in private schools. On average, there were 22 students per class in public schools and 14 in private schools.

A total of 169.2 thousand students were enrolled in vocational programmes, with boys accounting for the majority - 58.0% of the total.

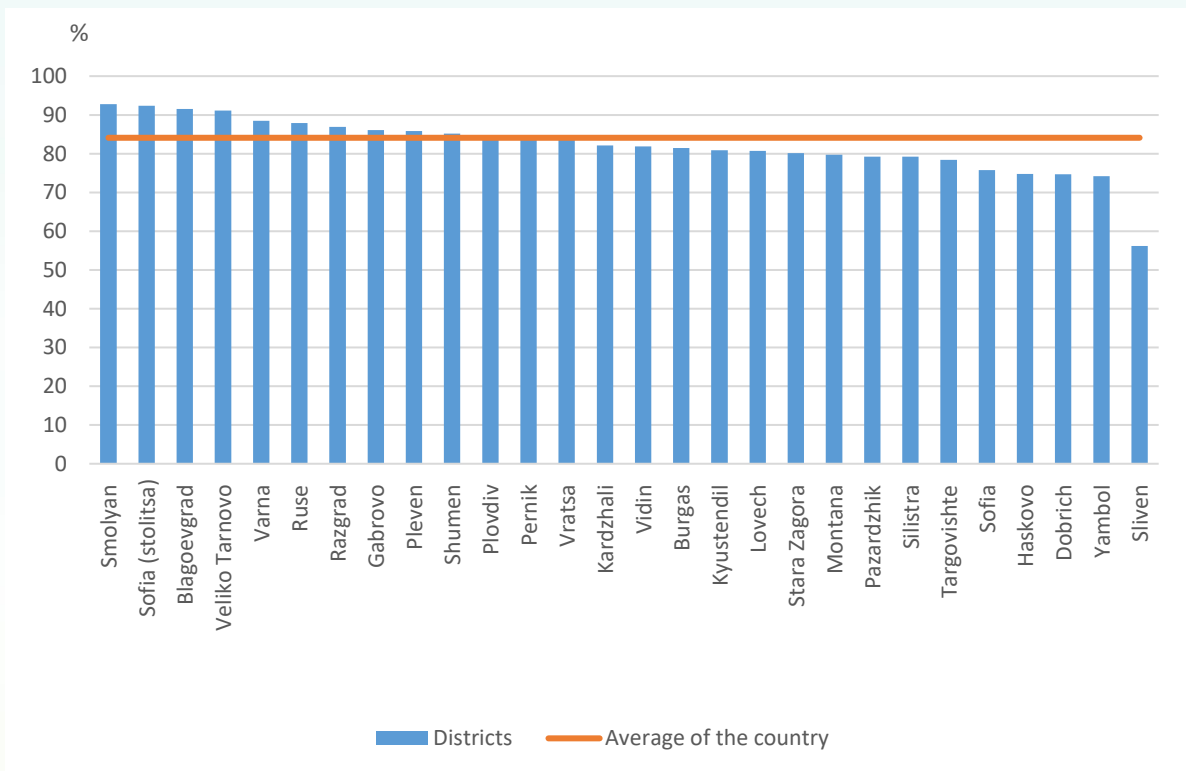
The coverage of school education, calculated through the group net enrolment rate⁵ for the 2025/2026 school year, was:

⁵ The group net enrolment rate in school education is calculated as a percentage, representing the ratio of the number of students aged 7 - 10 in primary education, 11 - 13 in lower secondary education, and 14 - 18 in upper secondary education to the population in the respective age groups.

- 93.3% for the primary education;
- 89.5% for the lower secondary;
- 84.1% for the upper secondary.

The rate for the upper secondary education was 85.1% for boys and 83.0% for girls, with regional variations ranging from 92.8% in the district of Smolyan to 56.2% in the district of Sliven.

Figure 8. Group net enrolment rate for the upper secondary education by district, 2025/2026 school year



In 2025, 56.5 thousand students graduated from basic education, and 44.7 thousand graduated from secondary education.

A professional qualification level was obtained as follows:

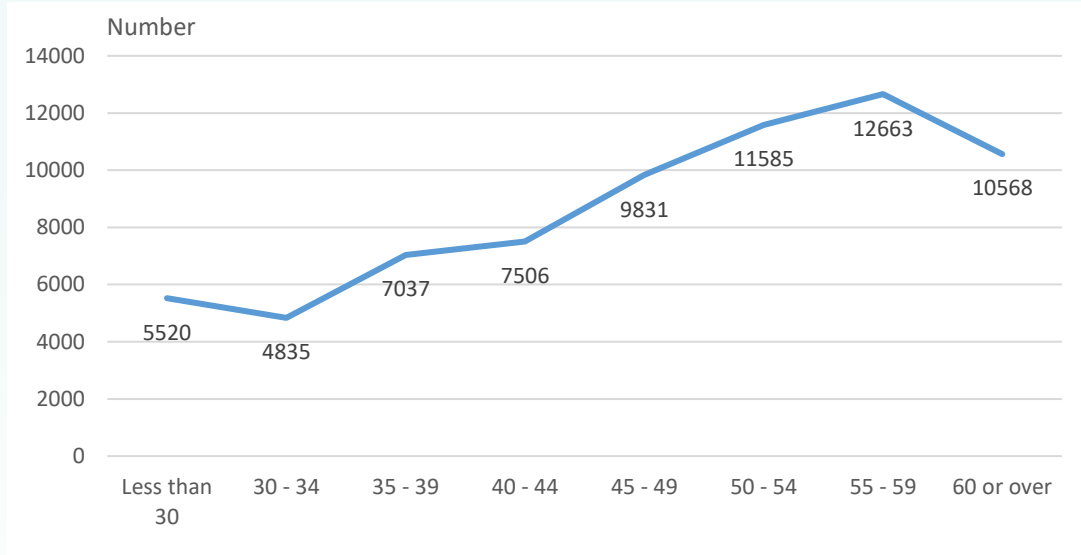
- ✓ First level - by 520 students;
- ✓ Second and third levels - by 2.6 thousand and 21.0 thousand students, respectively.

Among those who completed programs for acquiring a third-level professional qualification, the highest relative shares were of students who studied specialties in the following fields:

- ✓ Engineering - 24.1%;
- ✓ Informatics - 18.1%;
- ✓ Personal services - 15.8%;
- ✓ Arts - 12.1%;
- ✓ Business management and administration - 12.0%.

During the 2025/2026 school year, there were 69.5 thousand teachers (including principals and deputy principals with teaching responsibilities) across all types of schools. Of these, 68.4% held a master’s degree. The teaching profession is predominantly female, women accounting for 82.0% of all teachers. One-third of the teaching staff were aged 55 or above.

Figure 9. Teaching staff by age groups in 2025/2026 school year



4. ANTI-SOCIAL ACTS AND CRIMES OF MINORS AND JUVENILES

4.1. Minors and juvenile persons registered, new entrants, removed, and persons passed through Child pedagogical rooms (CPRs)

The number of minors and juveniles registered⁶ in the Child pedagogical rooms (CPRs) for anti-social acts and crimes committed in 2025 was 7 892. In comparison with 2024, their number decreased by 538 persons, or by 6.4% (see Table 5).

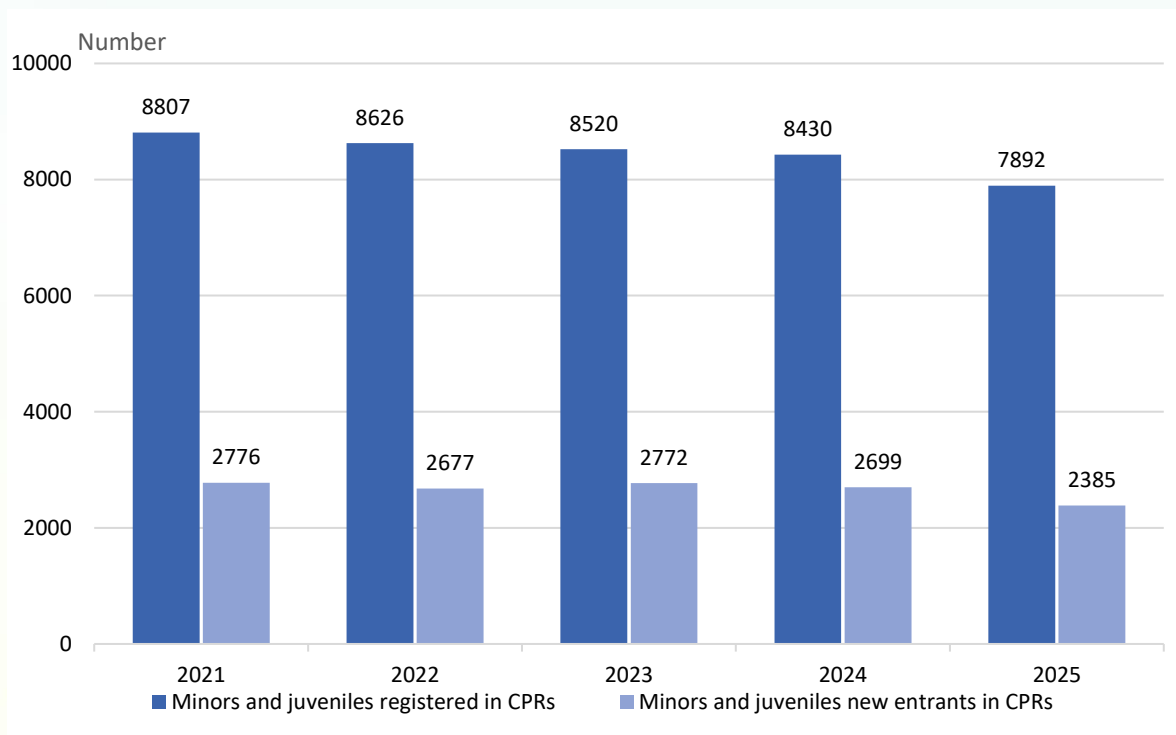
Table 5. Persons registered in the CPRs by sex and age groups in 2025

(Number)

Person registered	Total	Boys	Girls
Total	7 892	6 146	1 746
Minors (8 - 13 r.)	1 579	1 178	401
Juveniles (14 - 17 r.)	6 313	4 968	1 345

The number of new entrants⁷ in the Child pedagogical rooms in 2025 was 2 385, or 30.2% of the total number of persons registered in the CPRs. 75.0% of them were juveniles (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Minors and juveniles, registered and newly entered during the year in CPRs, 2021 - 2025



In 2025, 2 528, or 32.0% of the minors and juveniles, were removed from CPRs:

- ✓ 1 225 of them (48.5%) - due to improved behavior;
- ✓ 1 235 (48.8%) - by reason of reaching the age of 18;

⁶ According to Art. 26, para. 1, of the Rules for CPRs, minors and juveniles are registered for a 2-year period. After that period they are removed if they did not commit anti-social acts or crimes again

⁷ Incl. all minors and juveniles who were newly registered in the CPRs during the reporting year.

- ✓ 68 persons (2.7%) - due to other reasons.

4.2. Anti-social acts

In 2025 were committed 5 894 anti-social acts by minors and juveniles who passed through CPRs.

The distribution of some types of anti-social acts was as follows:

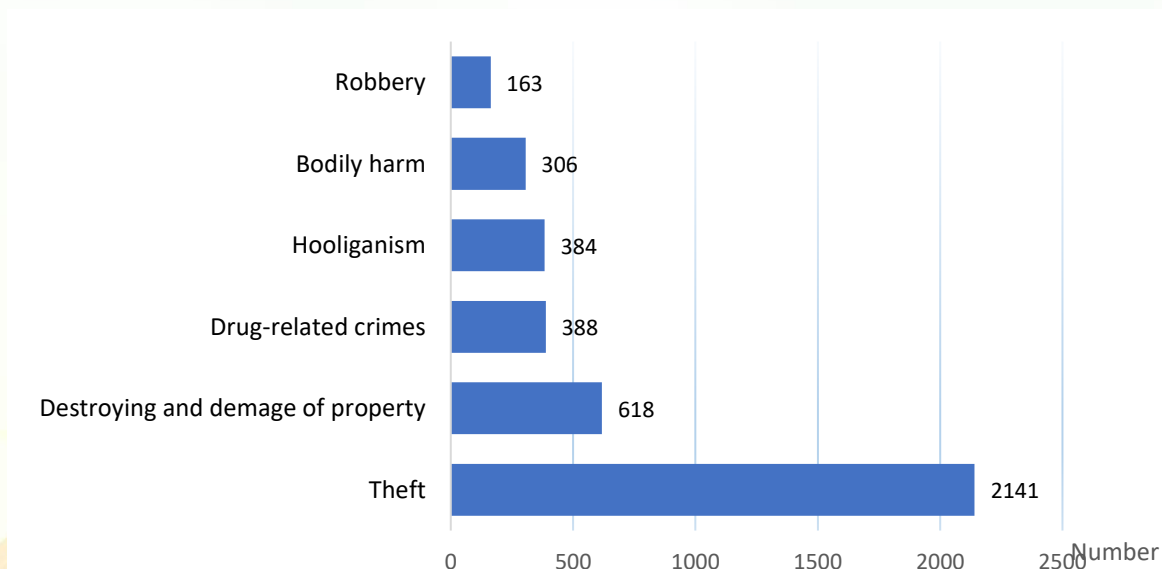
- ✓ Running away from home, a special institution or a residential type of social service - 986, or 16.7%;
- ✓ Behaviour of violence and aggression - 935 (15.9%);
- ✓ Psychoactive substance addiction - 565, or 9.6%;
- ✓ Indecently and/or hooligan behaviour in a public place - 497 (8.4%);
- ✓ Insults and threats - 460 (7.8%);
- ✓ Damage to public and/or private property - 426 (7.2%);
- ✓ Harassment - 361 (6.1%).

4.3. Registered crimes.

In 2025, were committed 4 741 crimes by persons registered in CPRs.

Theft of property was the most common type of crime committed by minors and juveniles. The committed thefts were 2 141, or 45.2% of the total number of crimes committed (Figure 11). The greatest was the share of committed thefts from shops or other trade establishments - 42.8% (916), followed by home thefts - 19.5% (418).

Figure 11. Minors and juveniles who have passed through CPRs for some types of crimes in 2025



4.4. Activities of the Local Commissions for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

In the structure of the public dangerous acts for which educational measures⁸ were imposed during the year, the largest was the relative share of the committed crimes - 3 316, or 62.4% of the public dangerous acts, followed by anti-social acts - 1 869 (35.2%), and administrative violations - 125 (2.4%).

6 890 educational measures were inflicted by the Local Commissions for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency in 2025, according to Art. 13, para. 1 of the Control of Juvenile Anti-social Behaviour Act, on 4 840 persons aged 8 - 17 years for committing 5 310 publicly dangerous acts⁹.

The most commonly imposed educational measures in 2025 were:

- ✓ Warning - 2 796 measures (40.6%);
- ✓ Placement under the correctional control of a public tutor - 1 563 correctional measures (22.7%);
- ✓ Placement under correctional supervision of the parents or the persons substituting for them, under the obligation to take special care - 995 measures (14.4%);
- ✓ Obligation to participate in consultations, training and programmes - 581 measures (8.4%);
- ✓ Obligation to perform a definite job in favour of the public was imposed on 334 persons (4.8%).



5. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN IN 2025

5.1. Income of households with children

⁸ The educational measure is an alternative to the punishment measure for educational impact on minors and juveniles and is necessary in order to overcome deviations in behaviour, prevent future violations and integration into society.

⁹ Incl. anti-social acts, crimes and administrative violations.



The annual total income average per capita was 14 403 BGN in 2025, there was an increase of 12.0% compared to 2024. For the households with children, the average income per person was 12 728 BGN - an increase of 15.2%. (see Table 6).

Over the last 10 years (2016 - 2025), the total income in the households with children has increased 2.8 times (4 491 BGN in 2016).

Table 6. Total income per person in a household by sources of income and number of children under 18 years of age in the household for 2025 (BGN)

Sources of income	Total	Households with children			
		Total	1 child	2 children	3 and more children
Total income	14403	12728	13200	12745	6867
Total gross income	14031	11836	12990	10806	6831
Wages and salaries	8231	9355	10328	8550	4597
Other earnings	144	244	229	261	267
Self-employment income	1072	1157	1241	1040	1160
Property income	21	4	6	2	-
Pensions	4224	506	650	334	259
Unemployment benefits	39	43	32	62	-
Family allowances	99	330	294	379	333
Other social benefits	107	81	97	56	101
Regular transfers from other households	94	116	113	122	114
Receipt sale	235	720	27	1764	-
Miscellaneous	137	172	183	175	36
Drawn savings	412	375	451	271	356
Loans and credits	63	109	159	47	53

The wage income in 2025 was 8 231 BGN and it increased by 16.4% compared to 2024, and its growth compared to 2016 is 2.9 times. The average wage income per person from a household with children was 9 355 BGN, while in 2024 it was 8 105 BGN. The increase in the average wage income per person from a household with children was 15.4%, which is 1 percentage point less than the change in the average level of this income.

The income from self-employment per person from a household with children in 2025 was 1 157 BGN and was higher than the national average (1 072 BGN). The highest - 1 241 BGN, was observed in households with 1 child, the lowest was registered in households with two children - 1 040 BGN. This income group decreased by 3.5% compared to the previous year, when the average per person in a household with children the income from self-employment was 1 198 BGN.

Income from all social transfers (pensions, unemployment benefits, family allowances for children and other social benefits and benefits) on average per person in a household was 4 469 BGN and

formed 31.0% of the total household income in 2025. In the households with children this share was much lower - 7.5%. It was highest in the households with three and more children - 10.2%, and lowest in the households with two children - 6.5% (see Table 7).

Table 7. Relative share of the total income per person in a household by sources of income and number of children under 18 years of age in the household for 2025 (%)

Sources of income	Total	Households with children			
		Total	1 child	2 children	3 and more children
Total income	100	100	100	100	100
Total gross income	97.4	93	98.4	84.8	99.5
Wages and salaries	57.2	73.5	78.2	67.1	66.9
Other earnings	1	1.9	1.7	2.1	3.9
Self-employment income	7.4	9.1	9.4	8.2	16.9
Property income	0.1	0	0	0	-
Pensions	29.3	4	4.9	2.6	3.8
Unemployment benefits	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	-
Family allowances	0.7	2.6	2.2	3	4.9
Other social benefits	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.4	1.5
Regular transfers from other households	0.7	1	1.1	0.9	1.6
Receipt sale	1.6	5.7	0.2	13.8	-
Miscellaneous	1	1.3	1.4	1.4	0.5

5.2. Expenditure of households with children

In 2025, Bulgarian households spent an average of 12 661 BGN per person, 8.1% more than in 2024. For the same period, the annual total expenditure per person in a household with children was 10 943 BGN, 4.3% more than in the previous year. Over the last ten years (2016 - 2025), the total expenditure in a household with children increased 2.6 times (4 201 BGN in 2016) (see Table 8 and Table 9).



Table 8. Total expenditure per person in a household by sources of income and number of children under 18 years of age in the household for 2025 (BGN)

Expenditure	Total	Households with children			
		Total	1 child	2 children	3 and more children
Total expenditure	12661	10943	12131	9812	6420
Consumer monetary expenditure	10177	8428	9338	7558	4984
Foods and non-alcoholic beverages	3713	2851	3146	2558	1840
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	520	406	442	367	300
Clothing and footwear	401	468	486	473	216
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	1361	938	1036	839	621
Furnishing and maintenance of the house	589	437	539	321	223
Health	707	383	412	363	197
Transport	877	902	997	834	354
Communication	536	473	520	421	356
Recreation, culture and education	820	919	1024	810	592
Miscellaneous goods and services	653	651	736	572	285
Taxes	789	865	974	757	497
Social insurance contributions	1161	1245	1378	1120	714
Regular transfers to others households	113	168	207	121	101
Other expenditure	421	237	234	256	124

In 2025, the following differences were observed in terms of some types of expenses on average per person in a household and on average per person in a household with children:

- ✓ The expenditure on food and non-alcoholic beverages was 3 713 BGN, or 10.6% more than the previous year. For households with children - 2 851 BGN (2 600 BGN in 2024);
- ✓ The expenditure for clothing and footwear in 2025 was 401 BGN, and for households with children - 468 BGN;
- ✓ The expenditure related to housing (water, electricity, fuels, furniture and home maintenance), for the last year was 1 950 BGN, for households with children - 1 375 BGN;
- ✓ In 2025, 707 BGN were spent on healthcare, which was about 1.8 times more than the expenditure of households with children - 383 BGN;
- ✓ 1 413 BGN were spent on transport and communications, and 1 375 BGN for households with children;
- ✓ The expenditure on leisure, cultural recreation and education in 2025 was 820 BGN, and 919 BGN for households with children;
- ✓ In the last year, the expenditure for taxes and social security amounted to 1 950 BGN, compared to 2 110 BGN for households with children.

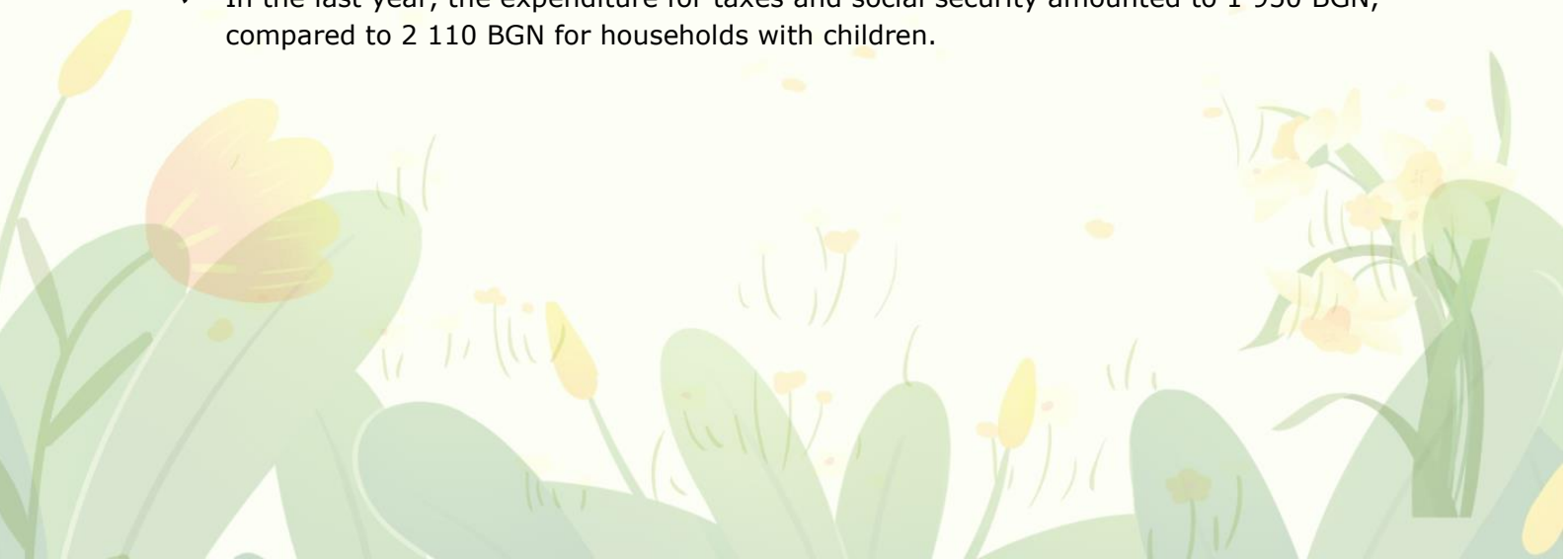


Table 9. Relative share of expenditure within total household expenditure by number of children under 18 years of age in the household in 2025 (%)

Expenditure	Total	Households with children			
		Total	1 child	2 children	3 and more children
Total expenditure	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Consumer monetary expenditure	80.4	77.0	77.0	77.0	77.6
Foods and non-alcoholic beverages	29.3	26.1	25.9	26.1	28.7
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	4.1	3.7	3.6	3.7	4.7
Clothing and footwear	3.2	4.3	4.0	4.8	3.4
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	10.7	8.6	8.5	8.5	9.7
Furnishing and maintenance of the house	4.7	4.0	4.4	3.3	3.5
Health	5.6	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.1
Transport	6.9	8.3	8.2	8.5	5.5
Communication	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	5.5
Recreation, culture and education	6.5	8.4	8.4	8.3	9.2
Miscellaneous goods and services	5.2	5.8	6.3	5.8	4.3
Taxes	6.2	7.9	8.0	7.7	7.7
Social insurance contributions	9.2	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.1
Regular transfers to others households	0.9	1.5	1.7	1.2	1.6
Other expenditure	3.3	2.2	1.9	2.7	2.0



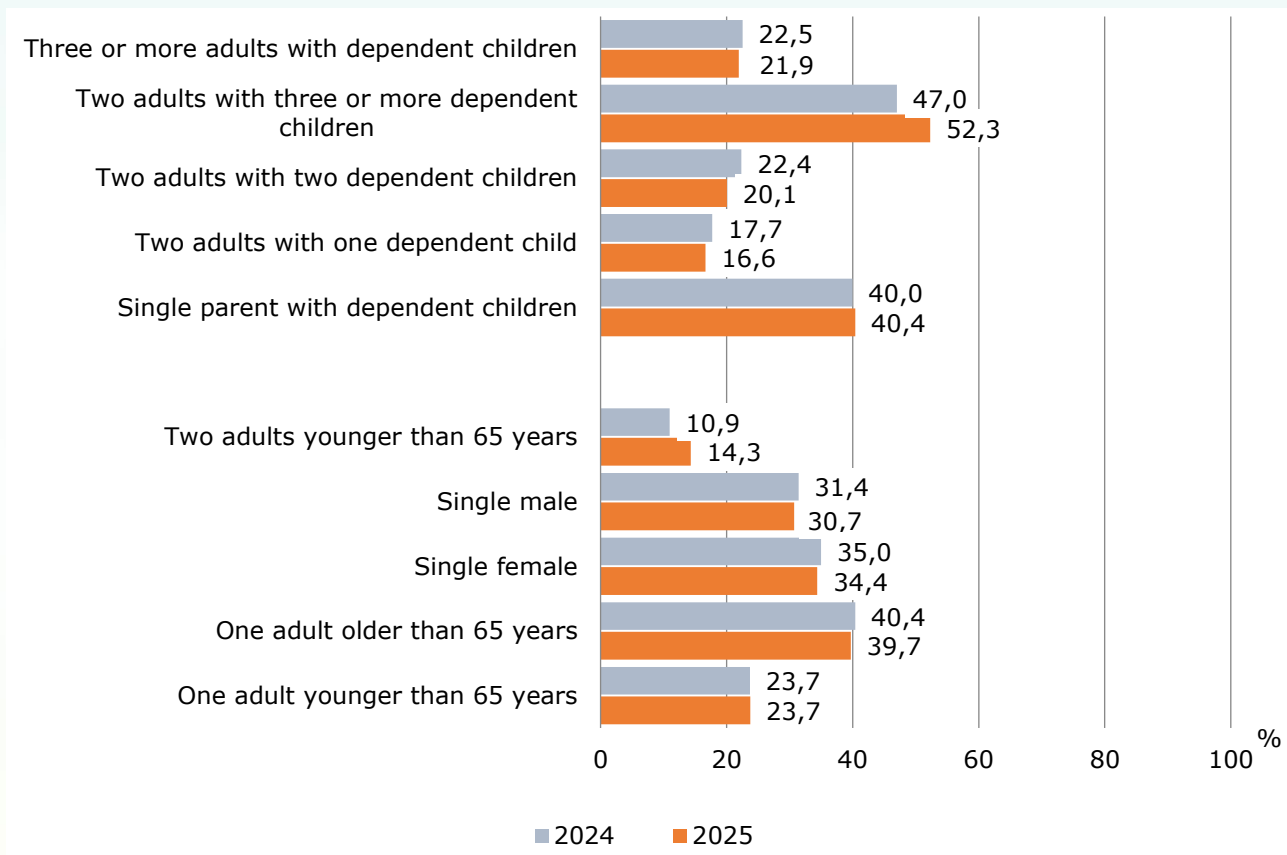
6. POVERTY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION INDICATORS

6.1. Poverty Assessment

In 2025, the national poverty line was 866.67 BGN monthly average per household member. At this level, 1 368.7 thousand people, or 21.2% of the country's population, were below the poverty line.

At-risk-of-poverty estimates by household type show that the relative share of people living in poverty was highest among households consisting of two adults with three or more dependent children (52.3% for 2025) and single-parent households with dependent children (40.4% for 2025). Among the single-person households, the risk of poverty for women was 3.7 percentage points higher than for men. In a single-person household where the age of the person is above 65 the risk of poverty was 16.0 percentage points higher than for persons aged below 65 years living in a single-person household (see Figure 12).

Figure 12. Risk of poverty by household types (%)

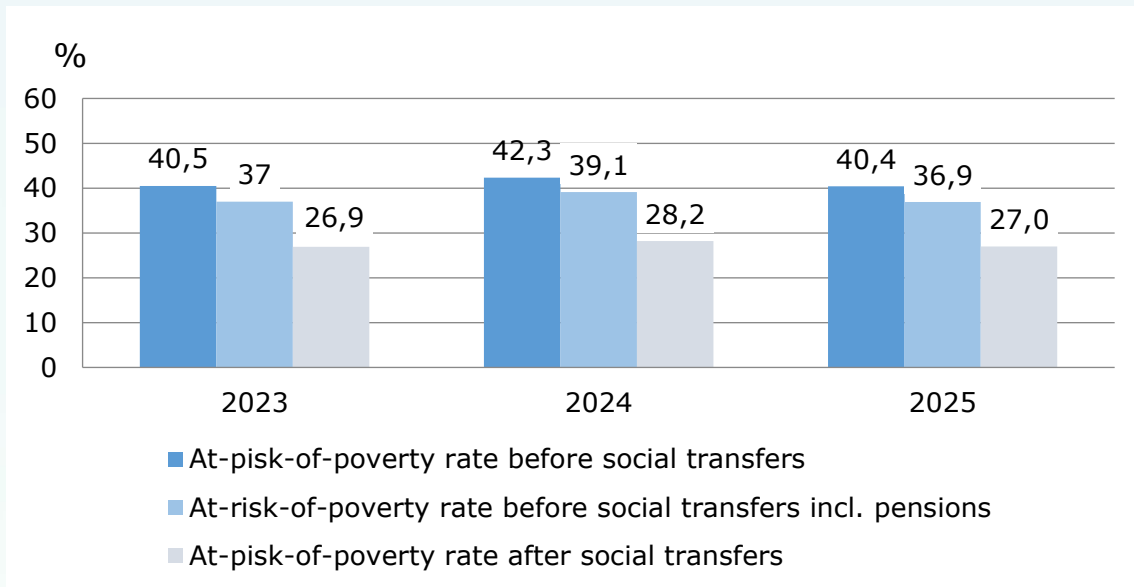


6.2. Children at-risk-of-poverty and material deprivation

In 2025, 27.0% of the children aged 0 - 17 in Bulgaria were at risk of poverty, which is 1.2 percentage points lower than in 2024. Social transfers to households reduced the risk of poverty among children by 13.4 percentage points (see Figure 13).

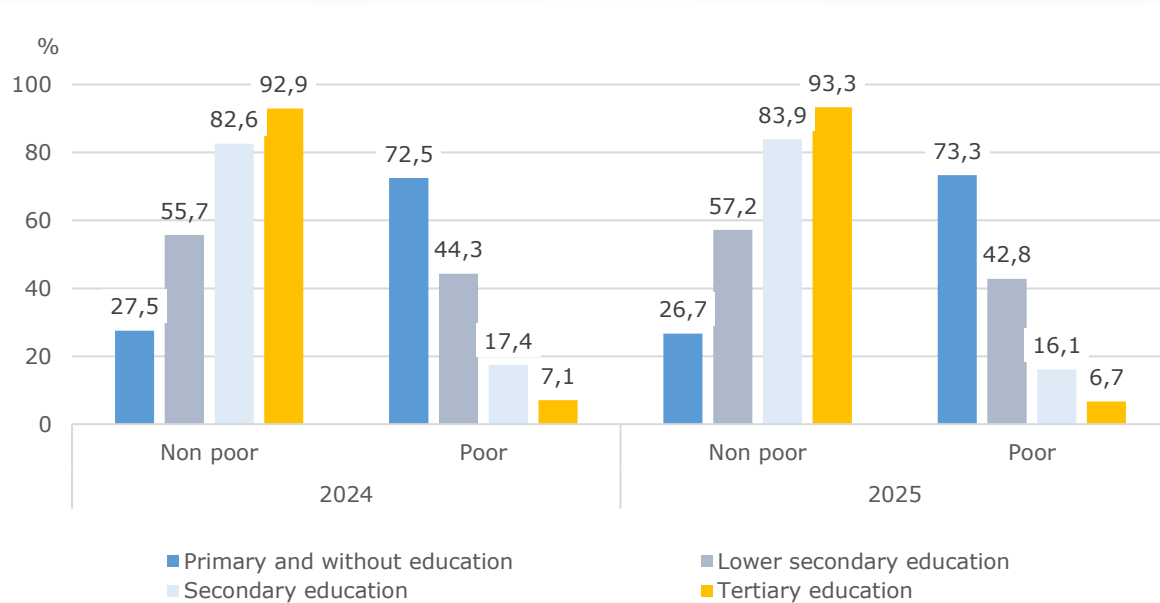


Figure 13. Children at-risk-of-poverty before and after social transfers



The parents' educational attainment and occupation are important factors in their children's future development. A higher level of education provides greater access to the labour market and, consequently, higher wages. In 2025, seven out of ten children (73.3%) whose parents have only primary education or no education at all lived in poverty (see Figure 14). Approximately 11 times fewer, or 6.7%, were the children whose parents have a tertiary education and were at risk of poverty.

Figure 14. Share of children at-risk-of-poverty by educational level of their parents



6.3. Material deprivation among children

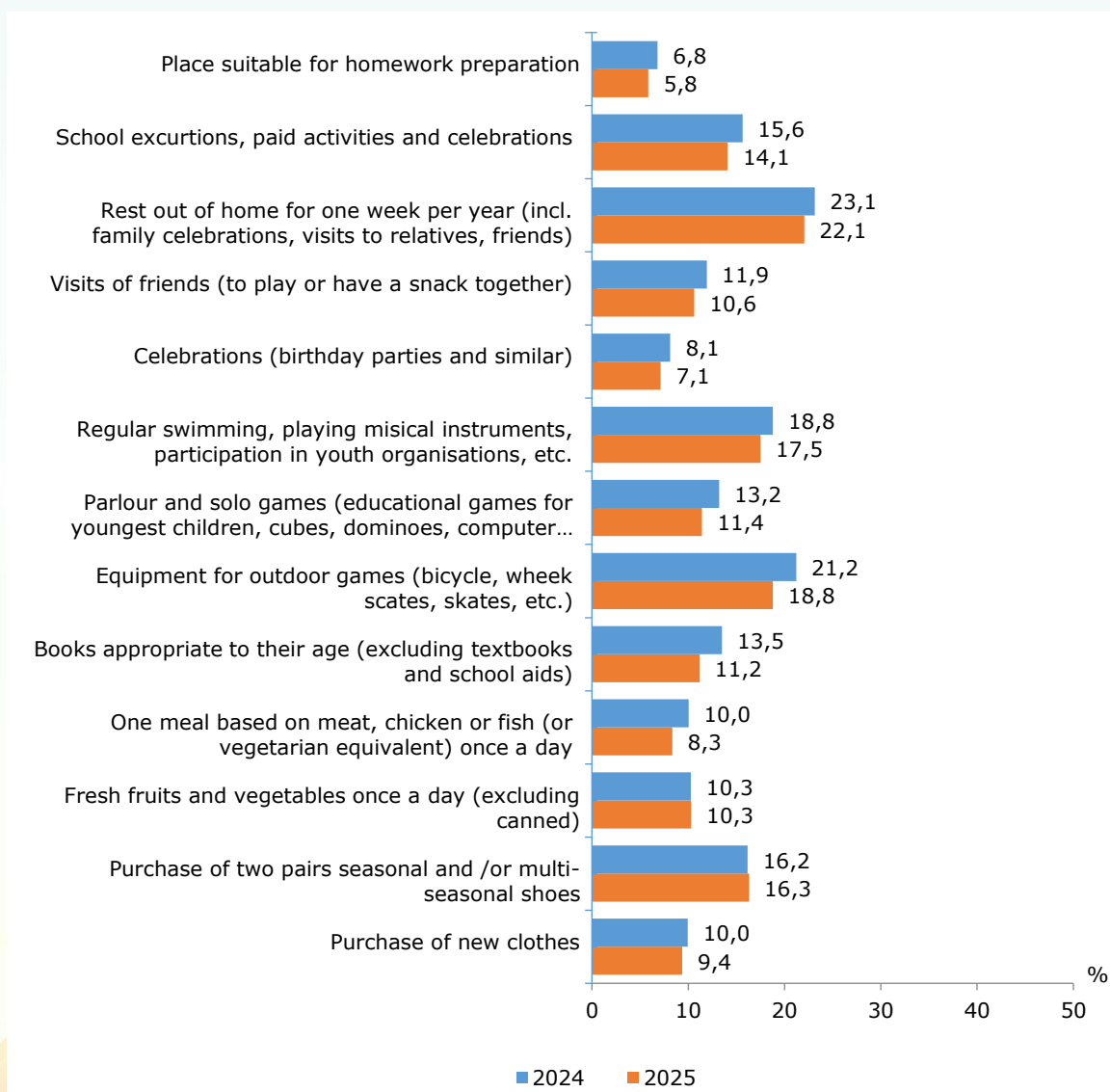
The 2013 'Statistics on Income and Living Conditions' survey collects data on material deprivation among children in households (aged 1 to 15). In 2025, the relative share of children experiencing

material deprivation (deprived of at least 1 of 13 indicators) was 26.7%, and for 0.9% of them, none of their needs could be met due to financial reasons.

Nearly a quarter of children (22.1%) could not afford to take a week's annual holiday away from home (including family holidays, visits to relatives or friends, school-organized trips, etc.). 18.8% could not afford equipment for outdoor activities (bicycle, rollerblades, skates, etc.), while 17.5% could not afford regular activities such as swimming, playing a musical instrument, participating in youth organizations, etc. (see Figure 15).

In 2025, 48.4% of children with material deprivation were also at-risk-of-poverty.

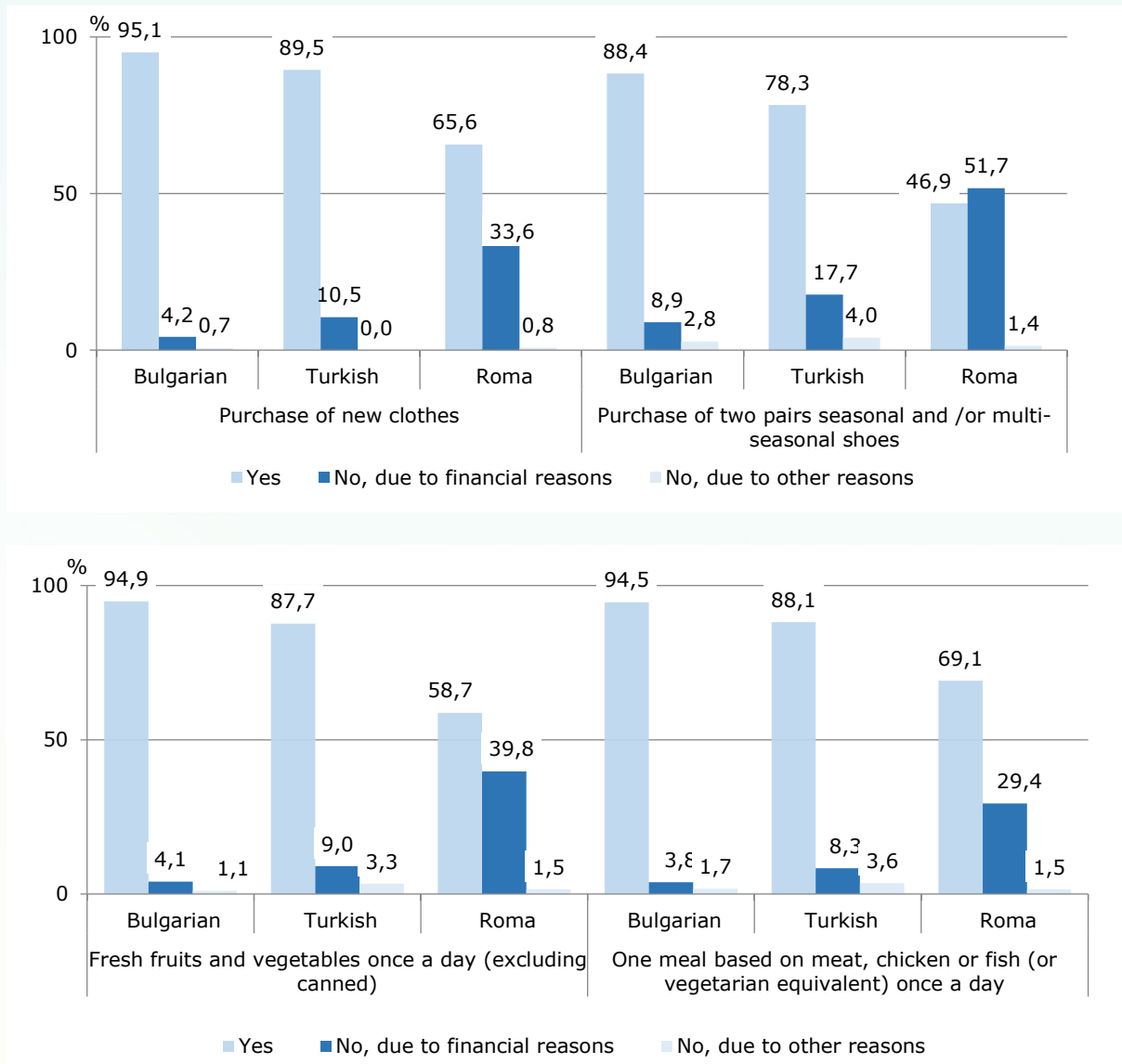
Figure 15. Material deprivation among children in 2024 and 2025 (%)

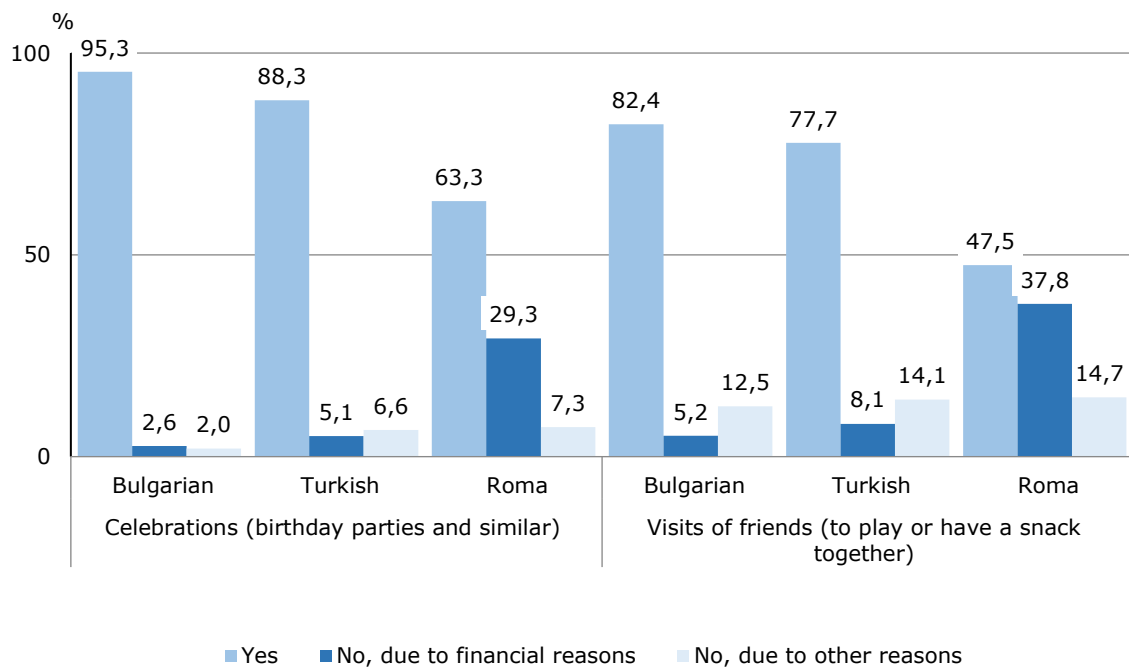
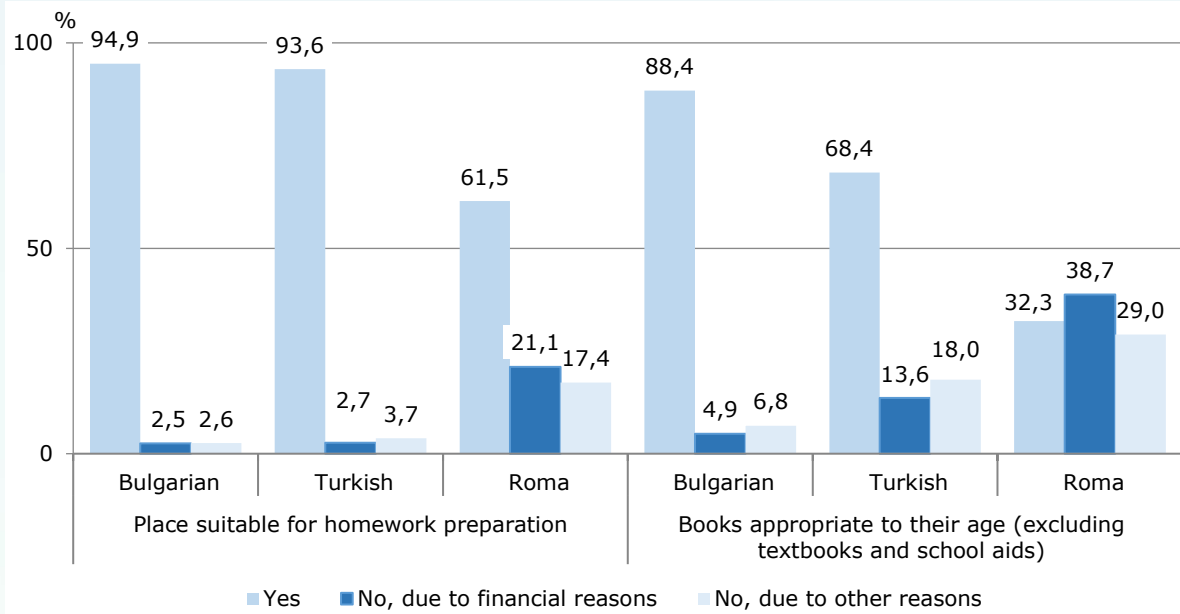


The ability to meet certain needs of children varies depending on ethnic affiliation. In 2025, the relative share of children experiencing material deprivation (lacking at least 1 of 13 indicators) was as follows: 17.3% of the Bulgarian ethnic group, 29.6% of the Turkish ethnic group, 73.5% of the Roma ethnic group, and 17.1% of other ethnic groups. Not a single need (limitations on all 13

indicators) could be met for 0.3% of the Bulgarian ethnic group, 0.6% of the Turkish ethnic group, and 4.6% of the Roma ethnic group. About 29.0% of materially deprived children from the Bulgarian ethnic group also lived at-risk-of-poverty. For the other groups, the relative shares were as follows: 34.0% of the Turkish ethnic group and 75.5% of the Roma ethnic group.

Figure 16. Material deprivation among children by ethnic group in 2025







7. CULTURE

In 2025, there were 89 theaters operating in the country. Of these, 25 puppet theaters, 8 dramatic-puppet theaters, and 7 circuses. The number of performances in puppet and dramatic-puppet theaters, and in circuses, was 8 751 in 2025, and they were attended by 822 000 visitors.

4 899 educational programs were organized for students in museums.

5 386 hours of children's and 6 484 hours of youth programs were broadcast on television. For the same period, 6 999 hours of children's and youth programs were broadcast on the radio.

In 2024, the number of published books in the genre of fiction for children and adolescents was 565, with a circulation of 489 thousand, which was respectively 6.4% of all published titles and 9.2% of the circulation. Compared to the previous year, the number of published children's and adolescent books decreased by 37 issues, or by 6.1%.





Methodological notes

Population

The population number and structures by the end of the year are calculated based on the population data for the preceding year and data on the population's natural and migration movement during the reference year. In the census years, recalculation of the population is done as of the end of the respective year.

For calculation of the demographic indicators average annual population number is used. The average annual population is an average value calculated on the bases of population at the end of the previous year and at the end of the reported year.

The source of the data on population number and structures is the Statistical Register of the Population maintained by NSI. Data source on natural and migration movement of population (births, deaths, marriages, divorces, migration) is the Unified System for Civil Registration and Administrative Services of the Population (Bulgarian acronym ESGRAON). Demographic events are registered through standard documents ESGRAON-CDS (Current Demographic Statistics): notification for birth, notification for marriage, notification for divorce, notification for death and address card for change of a present (current) address.

Data sources on international migration are the Unified System for Civil Registration and Administrative Services of the Population, document ESGRAON-CDS: notification for change of present address; National Revenue Agency; National Social Security Institute; Ministry of Interior; Estimates of emigration flows.

Data on population number and demographic events are distributed according to the administrative-territorial division of the country as of 31.12 of the reference year (settlements, municipalities, districts) and statistical regions according to the 'present address'. The last is the address corresponding to the residence declared by the person and officially registered.

The age of the population by the end of the year is calculated as of 31.12. in completed years.



The persons' age at occurrence of a demographic event is calculated in completed years based on the date of birth and the date of the respective event, i.e., the age completed at the time of the event. More information and data are available on the NSI website (<https://nsi.bg/en>), section "Population - demography, migration and projections" and in the INFOSTAT Information System: <https://nsi.bg/en/infostat>

Crèches

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. More information and data from the "Children's Day Care" survey are available on the NSI website (<http://www.nsi.en>), "Health" section and in the INFOSTAT Information System: <https://nsi.bg/en/infostat>

Education

For the surveys on pre-primary and school education, the National Statistical Institute (NSI) uses information from the administrative registers of the Ministry of Education and Science. Additional information is published on NSI's website within the survey's metadata (<https://nsi.bg/en/node/3415> and <https://nsi.bg/en/node/3433>).

Education statistics was developed on the basis of Regulation N° 452/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning, the current legal basis in Bulgaria in the area of education, the International Standard Classification of Education - revision 2011 (ISCED 2011) and the concomitant methodological instructions.

ISCED was designed to serve as a framework to classify educational activities as defined in programmes and the resulting qualifications into internationally agreed categories.



The National Statistical Institute conducts yearly exhaustive surveys that characterize the activity of educational institutions.

Educational institutions directly conduct teaching via educational programmes to the enrolments in organized classes (groups) or via distance mode of learning. Those programmes lead to the attainment of an education degree and/or level of professional qualification. Non-formal training and informal learning are not covered by the scope of the education system according to the used ISCED 2011 definitions.

With its surveys, NSI aims to determine the number of students in the education system as of a given date of observation. This is the basis for calculating the internationally accepted indicator 'Participation Rate of the Population in the Education System', which represents the relative share of students enrolled from a certain age group in relation to the number of the constant population of the country in the same age group. More information and data on education statistics are available on the NSI website ([http:// https://nsi.bg/en](http://https://nsi.bg/en)), section "Education and Lifelong Learning", as well as in the INFOSTAT Information System: <https://nsi.bg/en/infostat>

Anti-social acts of minors and juveniles

The statistical survey on anti-social acts of minors and juveniles ensures information on the basis of annual data on the number of registered, new entrants, removed and persons passed through Child pedagogical rooms, the number of minors and juveniles with imposed educational measures for committing public dangerous acts. The source of information are the Local Commissions for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency.

Objects of the survey are the Local Commissions for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency.

Units of the survey are the minor and juvenile perpetrators of anti-social acts and crimes.

The Local Commissions for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency are the competent authorities that consider educational cases, enforce measures imposed under the Control of Juvenile Anti-social Behaviour Act and monitor their implementation.

Minors are the persons who have completed 8 - 13 years of age.

Juveniles are the persons who have completed 14 - 17 years of age.

Anti-social act is an act which is publicly dangerous and against the law, or contradicts the morality, and the good manners.

Child pedagogical rooms are special institutions for the prevention of crimes and anti-social acts, committed by minors and juveniles.

In the number of minors and juveniles registered in the Child pedagogical rooms are included minors and juveniles perpetrators of crimes and/or anti-social acts; convicted for general crimes; released from the correctional facilities, Correctional boarding schools and the Social-pedagogic boarding schools. Minors and juveniles are registered for 2-year period and after that period they are removed if they did not commit anti-social acts or crimes again. The number



registered in CPRs **does not include** the number of minors and juveniles who had **passed through Child pedagogical rooms.**

In the number of minors and juveniles registered as new entrants in the Child pedagogical rooms during the year are included minor and juvenile perpetrators of crimes and/or anti-social acts during the reported year.

The number of removed from Child pedagogical rooms' registration includes minors and juveniles who have been removed from register and the reason for removing.

In the number of minors and juveniles passed through Child pedagogical rooms are included minors and juveniles who have committed minor offences, for which a single police intervention was sufficient and no reason for their registration in the CPRs.

The educational measure is an alternative to the punishment measure for educational impact on minors and juveniles, who have committed an anti-social act, and juveniles, released from criminal liability under art. 61 of the Criminal Code, and is necessary in order to overcome deviations in behaviour, prevent future violations and integration into society.

The number of minors and juveniles with imposed educational measures includes all minor and juvenile perpetrators of anti-social acts, crimes or administrative violations against whom educational measures have been inflicted according to the Control of Juvenile Anti-social Behaviour Act. Depending on the offence nature, **more than one** educational measure may be imposed, except educational measures getting into Social-pedagogic boarding schools and getting into Correctional boarding schools.

In the number of minors and juveniles who have been victims of crimes are included those affected by various types of offences according to the place where the act was committed, rather than according to their place of residence.

Additional information is published on the NSI website (<https://nsi.bg/en>), section "Justice and Crime", as well as in the INFOSTAT Information System: <https://nsi.bg/en/infostat>

Household income and expenditure

The source of the data is the **quarterly** household budget survey. It is a sample survey. The sample used for the survey is a random sample of 3 060 households.

A regular household is two or more persons who live in one dwelling or part of a dwelling, having their meals together and having a common budget, irrespective of the fact whether they are relatives. A household is also one person living alone, having meals separately and having his/her separate budget.

Institutional households are not studied by the household budget survey.

The main indicators for income, expenditure and consumption are estimated **quarterly** and **annually** as average values and relative shares.



Household income in cash and kind includes all receipts of household members from: wages and salaries, pensions, self-employment income, unemployment benefits, social benefits, etc. Other regular or irregular transfers from other households and property sales are also included.

Household expenditure includes expenditure for food, beverages, tobacco, housing (water, electricity, heating, furnishing and maintenance), transport, communications, health, taxes, social insurance contributions, etc.

Consumption expenditure includes household expenditure for goods and services according to the International Classifications of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP).

Consumption average per household member includes the quantities of foods and beverages consumed at home. The catering data are not included.

Detailed information from the Household budget survey is published on the NSI website - <https://nsi.bg/en/>, in the section "Income, Expenditure and Consumption of Households" and in the Information System Infostat: <https://nsi.bg/en/infostat>

Poverty and Social Inclusion Indicators

Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishes a common framework for European statistics on individuals and households based on individual data collected through sampling. The Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) is one of the surveys covered by the Regulation and refers to the collection of comparable and up-to-date information on the current situation (cross-sectional data) and changes over time (longitudinal data) in income, levels and structure of poverty, and social exclusion.

The target population for the survey consists of **all private households** and their members residing in the country at the time of the survey. Persons living in collective households and in institutions are generally excluded from the target population.

The sample size for 2025 includes 10 147 households from 6 rotation groups across all regions of the country. In addition to the households included in the sample, all household members aged 16 and older are also surveyed. The sample consists of 6 rotation groups, with one of the rotation groups being dropped from the survey each year and replaced with a new one. This rotational sampling model provides two types of data:

- ✓ Cross-sectional (data from the current year of the survey);
- ✓ Longitudinal (data on households that participated in the survey for at least two consecutive years).

The survey is conducted using two types of questionnaire forms:

- ✓ Household questionnaire;
- ✓ Individual questionnaire for each household member aged 16 years and older.

Basic concepts

Poverty line



Eurostat's methodology uses total net disposable income to measure the poverty rate. The poverty threshold is set at 60% of the average total net disposable income per equivalent unit.

Equivalent scales

Poverty and social inclusion indicators are calculated based on the total disposable net income per equivalent unit. Due to differences in household composition and size, equivalent scales are applied. The modified OECD scale is used, according to which the first adult household member aged 14 or older is assigned a weight of 1, the second adult aged 14 or older a weight of 0.5, and each child under 14 a weight of 0.3. Weights are assigned to each household member and summed to obtain the household's equivalent size. The total disposable net income of each household is divided by its equivalent size thus creating a total disposable net income per equivalent unit.

Education level

The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) is used to define the educational level of the parents:

ISCED 0 - Pre-primary education;

ISCED 1 - Primary education;

ISCED 2 - Lower secondary education;

ISCED 3 - Upper secondary education;

ISCED 4 - Post-secondary non-tertiary education;

ISCED 6 - Tertiary education (bachelor and professional bachelor);

ISCED 7 - Tertiary education (master);

ISCED 8 - Tertiary education (PhD).

Data weighting

The database for each country contains the following weights:

Household weight (target variable DB090) to obtain the actual number of private households in the country;

Individual weight (target variable RB050) to obtain the actual number of persons within the country's territory;

Individual weight for each household member aged 16 years and older (target variable PB040) to obtain the number of persons aged 16 and older within the country.

When calculating poverty indicators, the individual weight (RB050) is used, since poverty status is calculated at the individual level and the target group refers to the entire population living in private households. For some of the indicators focused on persons aged 16 and older (e.g., 'relative share of working poor'), a personal weight (RB040) is used for persons aged 16 and older.

More information about poverty and social inclusion indicators can be found on the NSI website in the "Social Inclusion and Living Conditions" section (<https://nsi.bg/en/>) and in the Information System INFOSTAT: <https://nsi.bg/en/infostat>



Culture

Source of information about the activities of museums is a regularly conducted annual survey. Their activity is characterized by: museum stock units, visitors, cultural and educational activities of museums, personnel, revenues and expenditures and material-technical base of museums. In the number of museums are included independent museums, established by the order of art. 25, para. 1 and para. 2 of the Cultural Heritage Act (promulgated, SG No. 19 of 13 March 2009), and carrying out activities during the respective year.

Performing arts are object of a separate annual statistical survey. Units of observation are theatres, operas, operettas, circuses, musical formations, companies and associations that organize and hold recitals and concerts (pop, folk, symphonic, chamber, choral music, brass bands, mixed and others). Their activity covers the following main characteristics: stages, seating capacity, performances, visitors, stagings by nationality of the author, including new stagings.

Activity of libraries with over 200 thousand library units is object of an annual statistical survey. Their activity has the following main breakdowns of characteristics: library collection (books, continued editions and other library documents), readers, visits, library collection loaned, personnel, revenues and expenditures, computers, libraries area.

The activity of cinemas includes the following main characteristics - cinema seats, screens, screenings, visitors, ticket revenues. Film clubs and mobile cinemas are not observed.

More information from surveys in the field of culture can be found on the NSI website in the "Social Inclusion and Living Conditions" section (<https://nsi.bg/en/>) and in the Information System INFOSTAT: <https://nsi.bg/en/infostat>

