



CULTURE - LIBRARIES, CINEMAS, FILM PRODUCTION, RADIO AND TV PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES, PERFORMANCE ARTS AND MUSEUMS IN 2024

Statistical surveys in the field of culture conducted by the National Statistical Institute provide information on the activities of museums, theatres, libraries, cinemas, radio and television programme activity, film production.

1. Cultural institutions

In the coverage of cultural institutions are included museums, theatres and music formations (performing arts) and libraries.

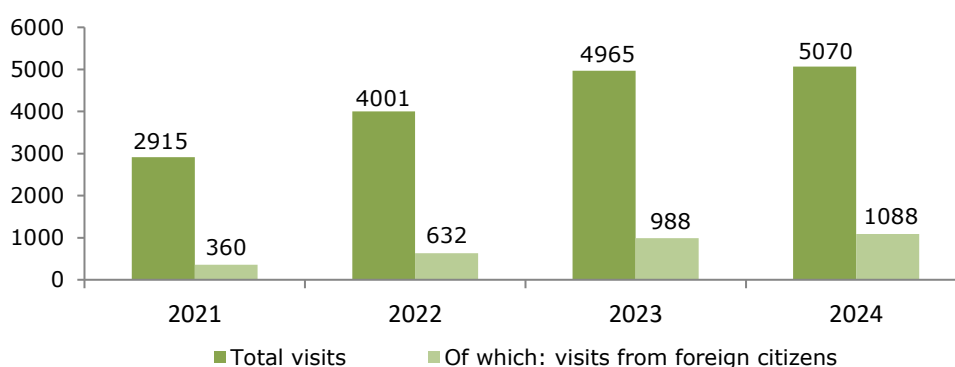
1.1. Museums

As of 31.12.2024, in the country, there were 188 functioning museums registered according to the Cultural Heritage Act. By thematic scope, museums were 101 general and 87 specialized (incl. art galleries).

Movable cultural values in 2024 forming the National Museum Stock were 7 733 thousand stock units, and in comparison with 2023, their number decreased by 115 thousand (1.5%). 482 thousand stock units were digitized, which is with 46 thousand more in comparison with the previous year.

Visits to museums in 2024 were 5 070 thousand, and their number increased by 2.1% in comparison with 2023 (Figure 1). During the days of free admission, 13.5% of all visits (682 thousand) were carried out. An increase in the number of visits by foreign citizens to museums was also registered - with 100 thousand, or by 10.1% in comparison to the previous year.

Figure 1. Museum visits (thousand)



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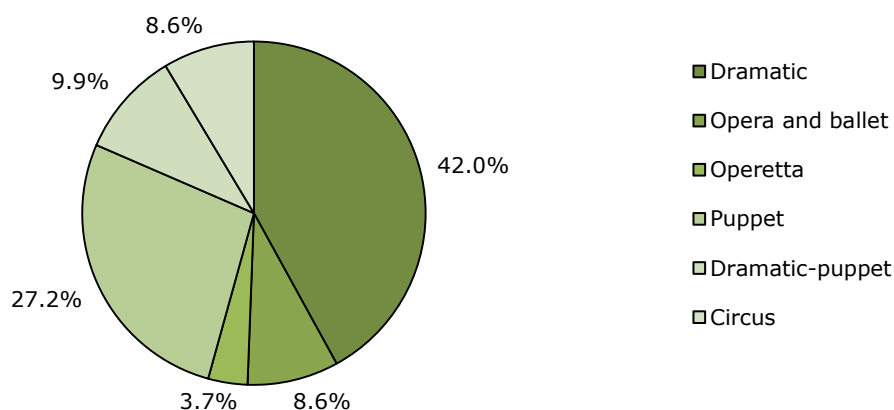
1.2. Performing arts

In 2024, in the currently operating 81 theatres in the country were organized 16 586 performances, visited by 2 304 thousand visitors, and in comparison with 2023, the number of performances and the number of visits increased by 2.9% and 2.4%, respectively. The average number of visitors per one performance was 139, and remains the same compared to the previous year.

The distribution of theatres by type (Figure 2) and by realized performances in 2024 was as follows:

- 34 dramatic theatres with 6 376 performances;
- 7 opera and ballet theatres with 964 performances;
- 3 operetta theatres with 412 performances;
- 22 puppet theatres with 5 954 performances;
- 8 dramatic-puppet theatres with 1 984 performances;
- 7 circuses with 896 performances.

Figure 2. Structure of the theatres by type in 2024



In 2024, there were 66 music formations operating in the country - 10 philharmonic and symphony orchestras, 27 professional ensembles for folk songs and dances and 29 orchestras. In comparison with 2023, the number of their performances decreased by 29.1%.

1.3. Libraries

In 2024, the number of libraries with library collections above 200 thousand library units was 49. Their total collection was formed by 34 697 thousand library documents (Figure 3) - books, continued editions - newspapers, magazines, bulletins and others, with

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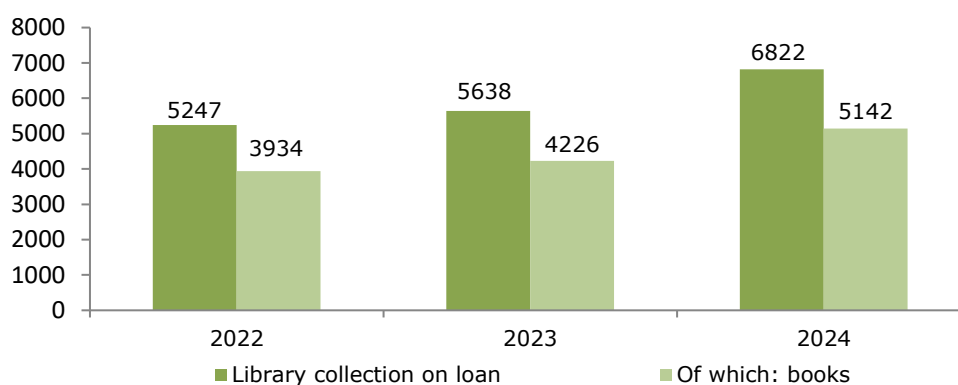
books having the highest share of its structure - 58.1% (20 147 thousand), followed by the other library documents (audio-visual, electronic, graphic and cartographic editions, micro-forms, patents and standards) - 26.1% (9 062 thousand), and continued editions - 15.8% (5 488 thousand).

**Figure 3. Library collection
(thousand)**



The registered readers (library users) were 277 thousand, which is 2.6% more than the previous year, and the library visits have increased by 0.2% and reached 4 384 thousand. The total library collections loaned was 6 822 thousand library units (Figure 4).

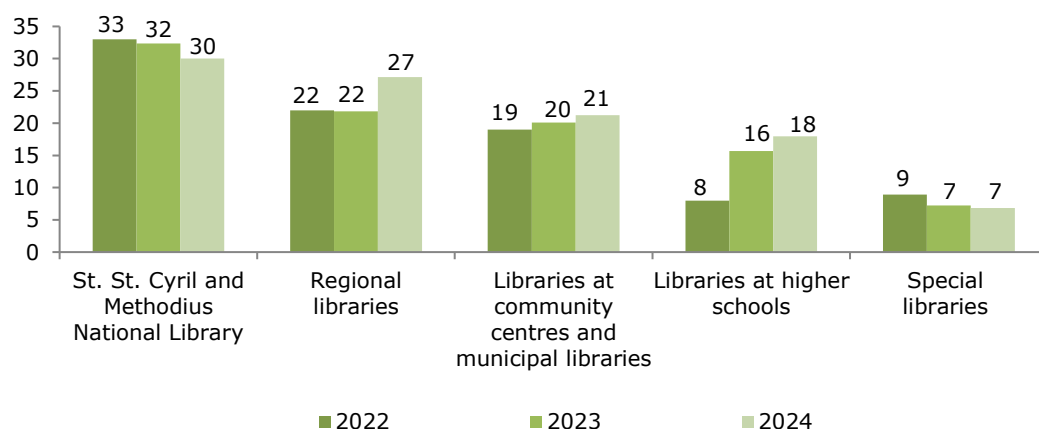
**Figure 4. Library loan collection
(thousand)**



In 2024, in the National Library 'St. St. Cyril and Methodius' were registered 8 573 thousand library documents, which is 82 thousand more in comparison with the previous year. In the regional libraries (27), in the district centers, there were library collections of 12 204 thousand units and the library collection loaned there increased by 1 092 thousand units in comparison with 2023.

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**Figure 5. Library collection loaned per reader by kind of the library
(thousand)**



2. Audio-visual activities

Audio-visual activities cover the activities of film production, cinemas, and radio and television programme activities.

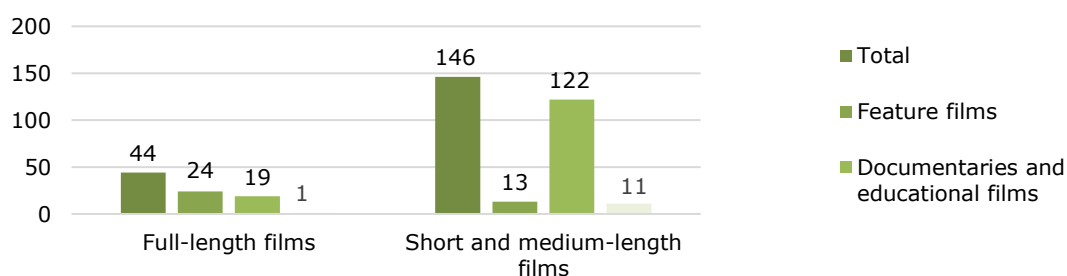
2.1. Film production¹

In 2024, a total of 190 full-length, short and medium-length films were produced, of which 65 for the cinema network, 113 for the television and 12 for other purposes.

There were 44 full-length films reported (24 feature films, 19 documentaries and 1 animation).

The number of the reported short and medium-length films was 146, of which 13 feature films, 122 documentaries and 11 animations.

**Figure 6. Film production by kind and genre in 2024
(number)**



¹ Includes nationally financed film productions and co-productions with the financial participation of national producers.

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2.2. Cinemas

At the end of 2024, the number of cinemas in the country was 84, and the number of screens - 240, and their number increased by 3 and 15, respectively, in comparison with 2023. The multiplex cinemas² were 12 and in them, 57.6% of all screenings were performed, and 61.7% of all cinema visits were made (Table 1).

1. Cinemas, screens, screenings and visits

Indicators	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cinemas - number	76	85	81	84
Screens - number	221	227	225	240
Screenings - thousand	210	301	310	319
Visits - thousand	2400	3816	4412	4481

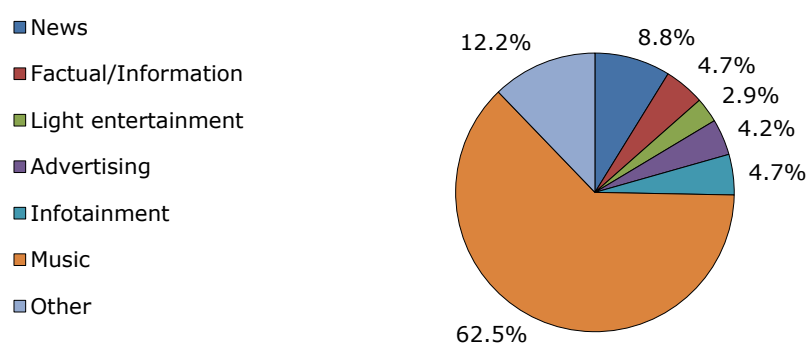
In 2024, in comparison with the previous year, the number of the screenings in the cinemas increased by 3.1%, and of the visits - by 1.6%.

The biggest number of cinemas was found in the Yugozapaden region - 29 cinemas with 138 thousand screenings, visited by 2 233 thousand persons. In the capital, 19 cinemas were functioning with 87 screens, and 2 499 films were screened.

2.3. Radio programme activities

In 2024, in the country, there were 71 registered and licensed radio operators, which broadcasted 607.0 thousand hours of radio broadcasts. This is with 1 272 hours more in comparison with 2023. The biggest share of radio broadcasts was of the musical ones - 62.5%, followed by the news (bulletins, commentaries, sporting news and forecasts) - 8.8% (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Structure of radio broadcasts by type in 2024



² Cinema complex with 8 or more screens.

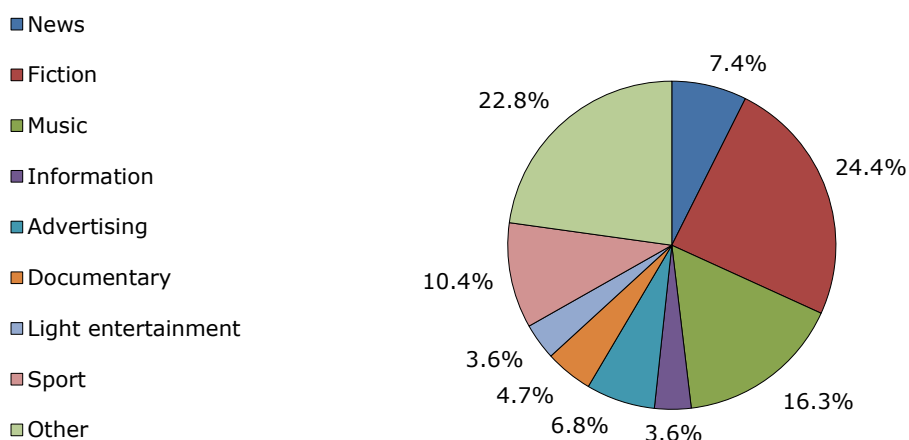
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2.4. Television programme activities

In 2024, in the country, there were 119 registered and licensed Bulgarian TV operators, which was 6 more than the previous year. Terrestrial, cable and satellite televisions broadcasted a total of 801.8 thousand hours of programmes, or 3.8% more in comparison with 2023. The specialized programmes (Figure 8) were distributed by hours as follows:

- Fiction programmes (feature and television) - 195.8 thousand hours;
- Music programmes - 131.0 thousand hours;
- Sport programmes - 83.3 thousand hours;
- News - 58.9 thousand hours;
- Advertisements - 54.8 thousand hours;
- Educational programmes - 9.6 thousand hours.

Figure 8. Structure of TV broadcasts by type in 2024



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Methodological notes

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 loan collection, personnel, revenues and expenditures, computers, libraries area.

Film production statistical data comes as a result of an annual exhaustive survey. Subject of observation is the activity of the Bulgarian film producers, which covers produced films for the year intended for exhibition in cinemas as well as for television broadcasting. Films produced exclusively for the internet are excluded. The activity of **cinemas** includes the following main characteristics - cinema seats, screens, screenings, visitors, ticket revenues. Film clubs and mobile cinemas are not observed.

Activity of **radio and TV operators** includes the following main characteristics - programs by type/genre in hours, incomes and expenditures.

More information and data on culture can be found on the NSI website, theme Culture (<http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/4526/culture>) and Information System 'Infostat' (https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat/pages/module.jsf?x_2=36).