

ANNUAL STATISTICAL SURVEYS IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE IN 2019 - MAIN RESULTS

Statistical surveys in the field of culture conducted by the National Statistical Institute provide information on activities of museums, theatres, libraries, cinemas, radio and television programmes activities and film production. Main indicators and coverage are designed in accordance with the methodological recommendations of UNESCO.

1. Cultural institutions

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

1.1. Museums

As of 31.12.2019 in the country there were functioning 160 museums registered according to the Cultural Heritage Act. Museums by thematic scope were divided into 83 general museums and 77 specialized museums (incl. art galleries).

Movable cultural values in 2019 forming the National Museum Stock were 7 529 thousand stock units and in comparison with 2018 their number increased by 110 thousand (1.5%). Of them 390 thousand stock units were digitized, which is 22 thousand more in comparison with the previous year.

Visits to museums in 2019 were 5 355 thousand and in comparison with 2018 their number increased by 5.3% (Figure 1). Approximately 1/5 of all visits (1 027 thousand) were carried out during the free entry days. The number of visits of foreigners to museums decreased with 20 thousand or 1.6% in comparison to the previous year.

Figure 1. Visits in museums



In 2019 the total number of personnel in museums was 3 406 employees and in comparison with 2018 increased by 3.3%.

In 2019, 1 577 computers were used for administrative purposes, 686 computers - for storing databases and 277 computers - for provision of information to visitors.

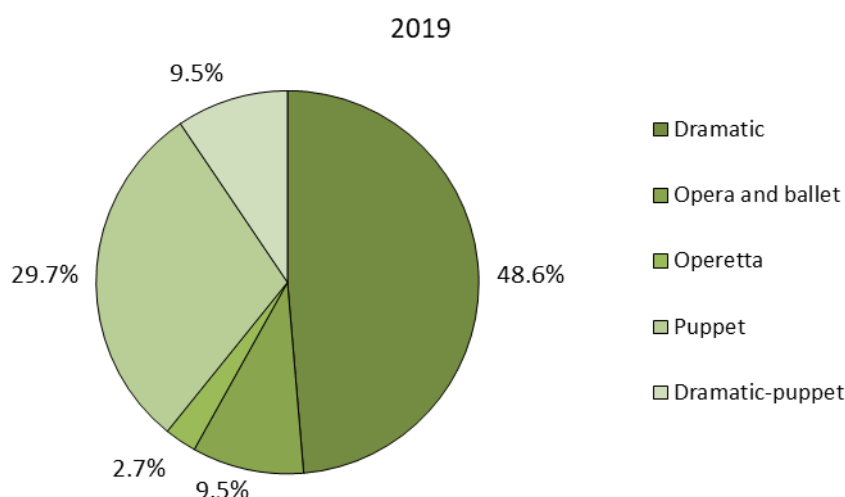
1.2. Performing arts

In 2019 in the currently operating 74 *theatres* were organized 15 955 performances, visited by 2 516 thousand visitors and in comparison with 2018 the number of performances and the number of visits increased by 5.3%. The average number of visitors per one performance was 158 and remained unchanged compared to the previous year.

The distribution of theatres by type (Figure 2) and by presented stagings in 2019 was as follow:

- 36 dramatic theatres with 6 777 performances;
- 22 puppet theatres with 5 638 performances;
- 7 dramatic-puppet theatres with 2 194 performances;
- 7 opera and ballet theatres with 1 017 performances;
- 2 operetta theatres with 329 performances.

Figure 2. Structure of the theatres by type



In 2019 there were 52 *music formations* operating in the country - 5 philharmonic orchestras, 25 professional ensembles for folk songs and dances and 22 orchestras. In comparison with 2018 the number of their performances increased by 7.0 % while the number of visits decreased by 10.6 %.

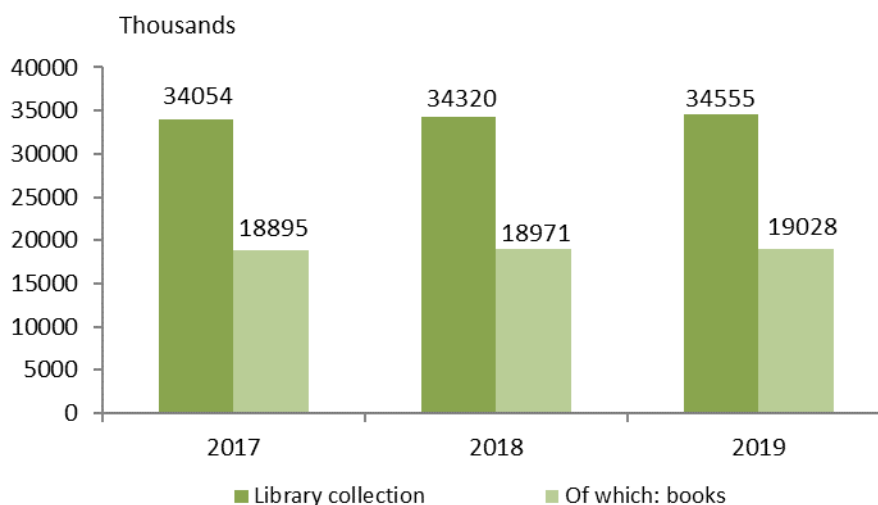
In 2019 *Societies, associations and music companies* were organized the following events:

- Popular music shows (Pop, Rock, Folk and others) - 374 concerts visited by 226.2 thousand visitors;
- Folklore events - 148 concerts visited by 98.6 thousand visitors;
- Chamber and symphony performances - 126 concerts visited by 30.4 thousand visitors.

1.3. Libraries

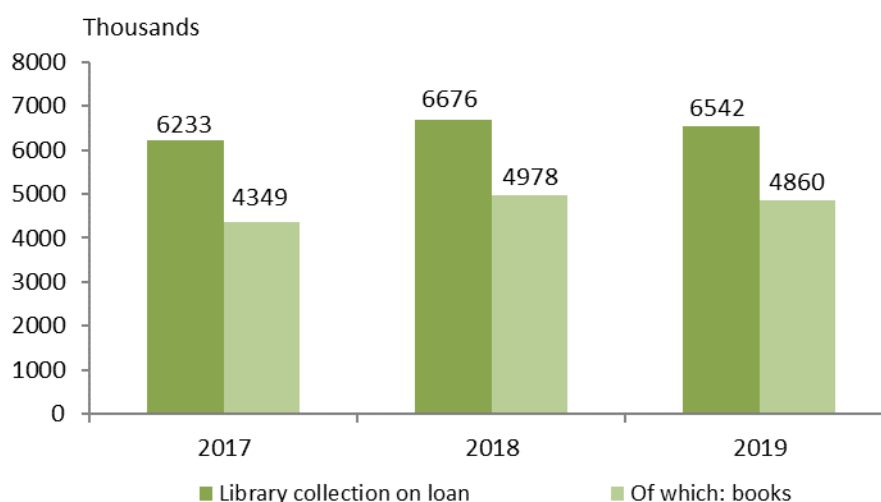
In 2019 libraries with library collection over 200 thousand library units were 47 and their number remained the same compared to the previous year. The collection contained 34 555 thousand library units (Figure 3) - books, continued editions - newspapers, magazines, bulletins and others. With highest share of the total library collection were the books - 55.1% (19 028 thousand), followed by other library documents (audio-visual, electronic, graphic and cartographic editions, micro-forms, patents and standards) - 29.7% (10 257 thousand) and continued editions - 15.3% (5 271 thousand).

Figure 3. Library collection



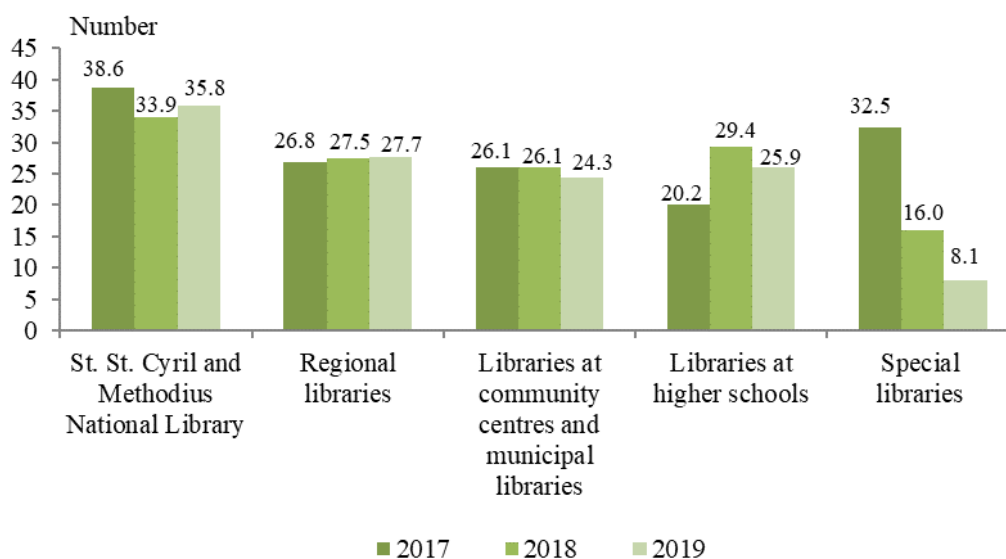
The registered readers (library users) were 243 thousand, which is 1.9% more in comparison with the previous year while the visitors to libraries increased by 4.1% and reached 4 751 thousand. The total library loan collection was 6 542 thousand library units (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Library loan collection



In 2019 in the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library were registered 8 262 thousand library documents, which is 69 thousand more in comparison with the previous year. In regional libraries (26) in the district centres there were a library collection of 11 932 thousand units and the library loan collection increased by 29 thousand (0.8%) in comparison with year 2018 (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Library loan collection per reader by kind of the library



2. Audio-visual activities

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

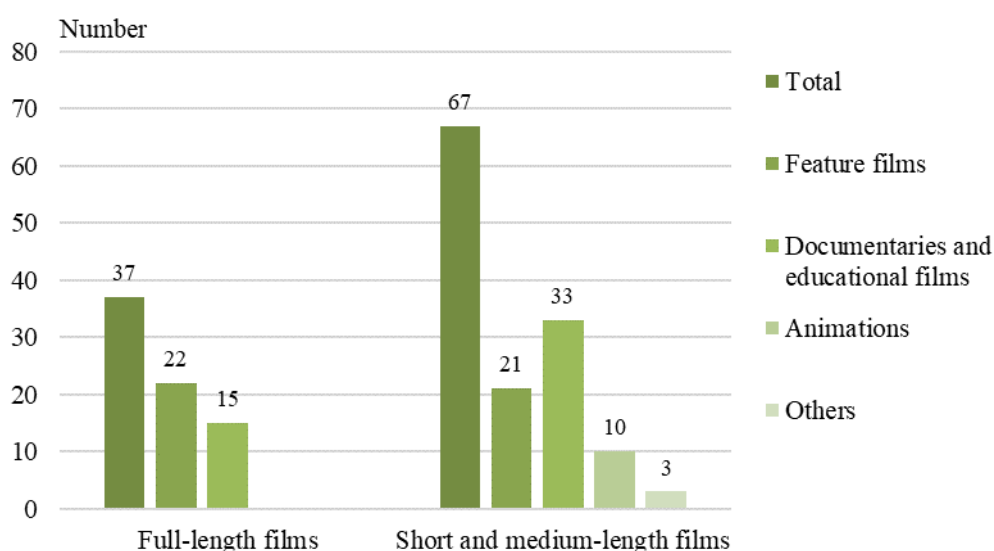
2.1. Film production¹

In 2019, a total of 104 full-length², short and medium-length films were produced, of which 51 for the cinema network and 41 for the television. Out of them 90.4% were shot digitally.

There were 37 full-length films produced (22 feature films and 15 documentaries). Their number increased by 7 (23.3%) in comparison to the previous year.

The number of the produced short and medium-length films was 67 of which 21 feature films (including 7 series with total of 200 episodes.), 33 documentaries and educational films and 10 animations.

Figure 6. Films by kind in 2019



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

² Full-length film - film with a running time of 70 minutes or longer.

2.2. Cinemas

At the end of 2019 the number of cinemas in Bulgaria was 74, and the number of screens – 237 which is an increase relatively by 5 and 11 in comparison with 2018. The multiplex cinemas³ were 11 and in them were performed 56.1% of all screenings and were made 62.3% of all cinema visits.

1. Cinemas, screens, screenings and visits

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Cinemas - number	55	59	68	69	74
Screens - number	206	220	226	226	237
Screenings - thousand	306	322	356	349	317
Visits - thousand	5341	5548	5506	4885	4582

In 2019 in comparison with the previous year, screenings in cinemas decreased by 9.0% and visits by 6.2%.

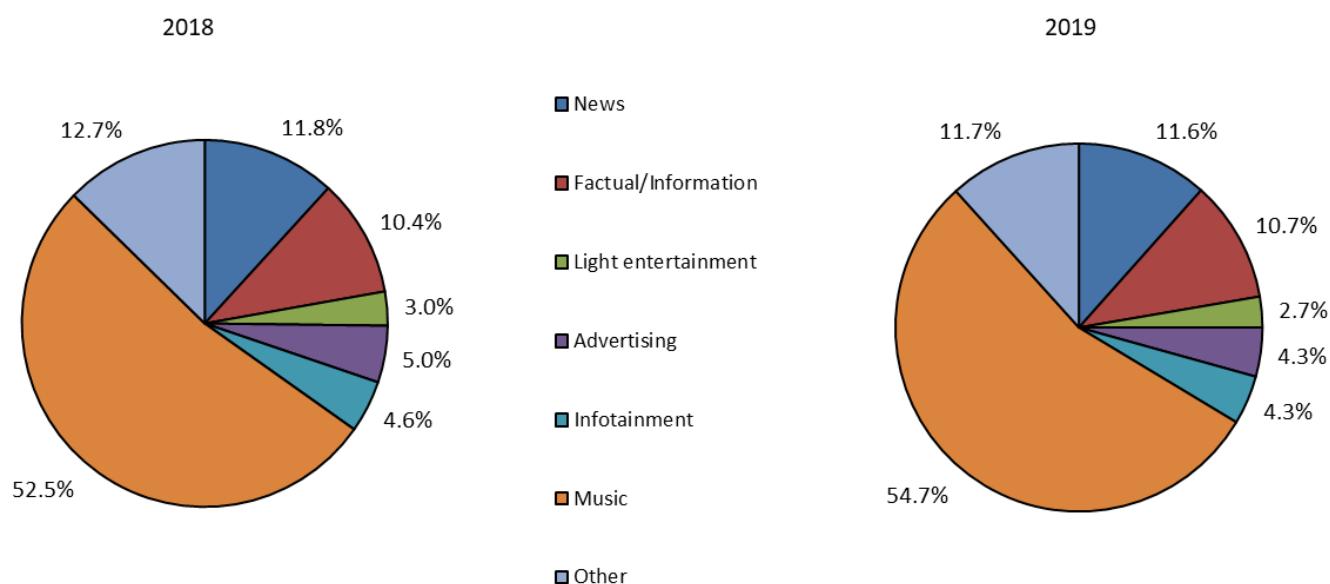
The biggest number of cinemas was found in Yugozapaden statistical region - 22 cinemas with 140 thousand screenings, visited by 2.5 million viewers. In the capital were functioning 16 cinemas with 101 screens and were screened 2 338 films.

³ Cinema complex with 8 or more screens.

2.3. Radio programme activities

In 2019 were operating 82 registered and licensed radio operators in the country, which broadcasted 721.4 thousand hours radio broadcasts, or 0.8% (5.6 thousand hours) less in comparison with 2018. The biggest share of broadcasts was of the music programmes - 54.7%, followed by news (bulletins, commentaries, sporting news and forecasts) with 11.6% (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Structure of radio broadcasts by kind

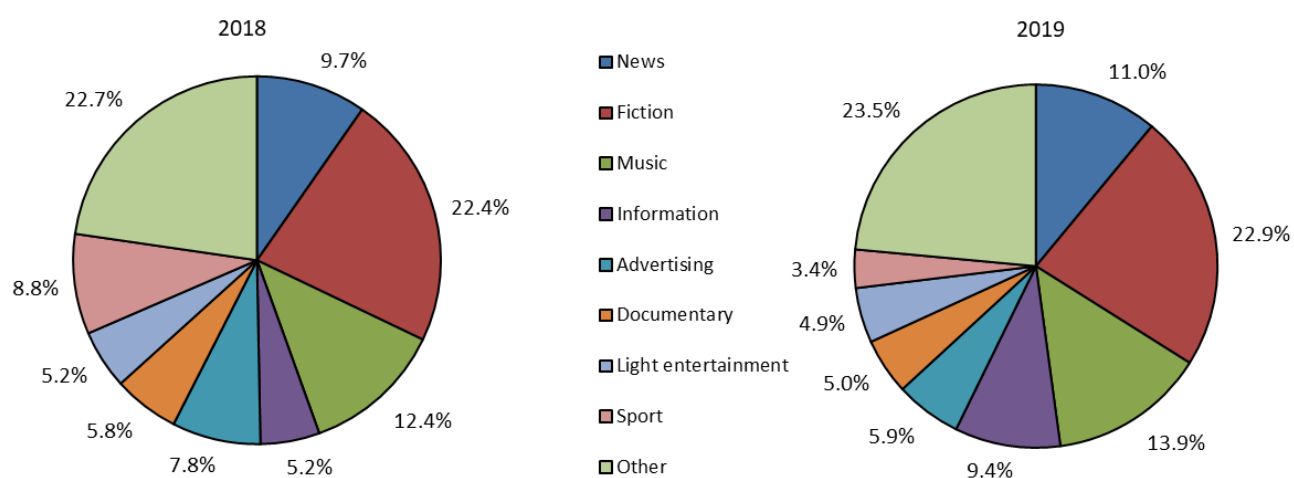


2.4. Television programme activities

In 2019 in the country were operating 128 registered and licensed Bulgarian TV operators, which was with 12 more than in the previous year. Terrestrial, cable and satellite televisions broadcasted totally 855.7 thousand hours of programmes or 15.2% more in comparison with 2018. The specialized programmes (Figure 8) were distributed in hours as follows:

- Fiction programmes (feature, television and video films) - 196.1 thousand hours;
- Music programmes - 119.0 thousand hours;
- News (bulletins, commentaries, sporting news and forecasts) - 93.9 thousand hours;
- Advertisements - 50.8 thousand hours;
- Educational programmes - 10.5 thousand.

Figure 8. Structure of TV broadcasts by type



Methodological notes

Data on the activities of **museums** is a result of 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. The number of museums is in accordance with the Cultural Heritage Act (Prom. in the SG 19 / 13 March 2009).

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.

Statistical data on **film production** are collected annually from the National Film Center and Bulgarian film producers. The number of films produced includes produced and fully accounted films for the reference year intended for exhibition in cinemas as well as for television broadcasting.

The activity of **cinemas** includes the following main characteristics - cinema seats, screens, screenings, visitors, tickets revenues. Film clubs and moving 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).