



Key indicators for Bulgaria*

This update: 28 December 2018

Next update: 5 April 2019

1. Output		May'18	June'18	July'18	August'18	Sept.'18	Oct.'18	Nov.'18	Dec.'18
Industrial confidence ^{1.1}	%	1.5	2.8	-0.4	-0.1	-1.8	-1.7	-1.4	-0.6
Industrial production ^{1.2 **}	yoy % ch.	0.5	3.6	0.9	1.7	-0.4	1.6		
Construction Production ^{1.3 **}	yoy % ch.	-0.5	-2.9	1.1	-1.3	-3.7	1.8		
		17 Q1	17 Q2	17 Q3	17 Q4	18 Q1	18 Q2	18 Q3	18 Q4
Gross domestic product ^{1.4}	yoy % ch.	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.1	
2. Private consumption		17 Q1	17 Q2	17 Q3	17 Q4	18 Q1	18 Q2	18 Q3	18 Q4
Consumer confidence ^{2.1}	%	-27.0	-25.4	-26.1	-25.0	-23.2	-23.8	-27.0	
		May'18	June'18	July'18	August'18	Sept.'18	Oct.'18	Nov.'18	Dec.'18
Turnover in retail trade ^{2.2 **}	yoy % ch.	6.3	6.1	4.9	5.1	4.6	4.9		
		17 Q1	17 Q2	17 Q3	17 Q4	18 Q1	18 Q2	18 Q3	18 Q4
Individual final consumption ^{2.3}	yoy % ch.	3.5	4.6	4.9	4.6	6.3	7.5	7.7	
3. Investment		17 Q1	17 Q2	17 Q3	17 Q4	18 Q1	18 Q2	18 Q3	18 Q4
Capacity utilization in industry ^{3.1}	%	75.5	74.7	75.5	76.8	73.7	76.0	77.5	
Gross fixed capital formation ^{3.2}	yoy % ch.	-2.3	4.0	2.3	6.6	9.7	6.6	7.0	
Change in stocks ^{3.3}	% of GDP	1.6	1.8	0.6	2.2	1.1	2.2	2.2	
4. Labour market		17 Q1	17 Q2	17 Q3	17 Q4	18 Q1	18 Q2	18 Q3	18 Q4
Unemployment rate ^{4.1}	%	6.9	6.3	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.0	
Unemployment rate - male	%	6.8	6.9	6.1	5.6	6.3	6.1	5.4	
Unemployment rate - female	%	6.9	5.7	5.5	5.7	5.1	4.7	4.5	
Employment rate 15+ ^{4.2}	%	50.0	52.2	53.2	52.3	51.5	52.5	53.3	
Employment rate 20-64	%	68.6	71.7	73.0	72.1	71.1	72.6	73.5	
Employed persons ^{4.3}	yoy % ch.	2.1	4.6	5.6	5.4	2.1	-0.5	-0.6	
Labour costs ^{4.4}	yoy % ch.	10.9	10.3	11.5	13.2	6.8	8.5	8.9	
		May'18	June'18	July'18	August'18	Sept.'18	Oct.'18	Nov.'18	Dec.'18
Shortage of labour in industry ^{4.5}	%	34.7	32.5	33.7	33.7	33.7	35.9	35.4	34.1
Wages ^{4.6}	yoy % ch.	7.2	9.0	7.8	8.6	6.7			
5. International transactions		May'18	June'18	July'18	August'18	Sept.'18	Oct.'18	Nov.'18	Dec.'18
Export order books in industry ^{5.1}	balance	-30.2	-22.7	-25.7	-26.7	-25.4	-23.4	-19.7	-25.9
Exports of goods ^{5.2}	mln. EUR	2153.5	2390.2	2515.2	2319.1	2347.5	2756.4		
Imports of goods ^{5.3}	mln. EUR	2424.5	2597.8	2644.7	2355.0	2437.0	2989.7		
Trade balance ^{5.4}	mln. EUR	-271.0	-207.6	-129.5	-36.0	-89.5	-233.3		
Current account ^{5.5}	mln. EUR	13.6	350.6	924.3	979.8	303.0	56.1		
Direct investment (net) ^{5.6}	mln. EUR	-83.3	-11.5	-233.4	-368.2	103.6	5.3		
Portfolio investment (net) ^{5.7}	mln. EUR	-77.9	-179.5	-31.4	116.4	110.8	68.7		
		17 Q1	17 Q2	17 Q3	17 Q4	18 Q1	18 Q2	18 Q3	18 Q4
Exports of goods and services ^{5.8}	yoy % ch.	7.4	4.7	7.7	3.5	1.0	-1.9	-3.6	
Imports of goods and services ^{5.9}	yoy % ch.	8.3	6.7	6.0	8.8	4.4	5.0	4.0	
6. Prices		May'18	June'18	July'18	August'18	Sept.'18	Oct.'18	Nov.'18	Dec.'18
HICP ^{6.1}	yoy % ch.	2.3	3.0	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.0	
		17 Q1	17 Q2	17 Q3	17 Q4	18 Q1	18 Q2	18 Q3	18 Q4
HPI ^{6.2}	yoy % ch.	9.0	8.6	9.0	8.2	7.1	7.5		
		May'18	June'18	July'18	August'18	Sept.'18	Oct.'18	Nov.'18	Dec.'18
Producer prices on domestic market (in industry) ^{6.3 **}	yoy % ch.	4.8	5.7	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.9	3.5	
Selling prices expectations in industry ^{6.4}	balance	1.9	1.4	4.3	2.1	3.9	3.8	5.4	4.3
Selling prices expectations in retail trade ^{6.5}	balance	7.4	12.3	6.9	9.8	9.5	13.9	7.7	9.1
7. Monetary and financial indicators		May'18	June'18	July'18	August'18	Sept.'18	Oct.'18	Nov.'18	Dec.'18
SOFIBOR (3 months) ^{7.1}	index	-0.02	-0.05						
M3 ^{7.2}	yoy % ch.	8.8	9.9	10.4	9.5	9.2	9.7	9.3	
Credit to Non-financial Corporations and Households and NPISHs ^{7.3}	yoy % ch.	5.3	5.8	5.9	6.5	6.2	6.8	7.2	
Exchange rate USD/BGN ^{7.4}	value	1.67	1.68	1.67	1.68	1.69	1.73	1.72	

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

* The key indicators are elaborated in accordance with the euro area, European Union and individual Member States indicators system. The analytical document is quarterly updated. Source of the data are the NSI statistical surveys and BNB data.

** In compliance with Regulation (EC) № 1165/98 and amendment Regulation (EC) № 1158/2005 since January 2018 the base year for Short-term business statistics has been changed.

All short-term indicators presented in the form of indices are calculated and published at 2015 as a base year.

Comments*

1. Output

According to the NSI business inquiries in December 2018, the **industrial confidence indicator** increases (by 0.8 percentage points) compared to November 2018.

In October 2018 the working day adjusted **Industrial Production Index** rose by 1.6% in comparison with the same month of 2017 (preliminary data). On annual basis in October 2018 Industrial Production Index calculated from working day adjusted data rose in the manufacturing by 2.6%, while the production went down in the mining and quarrying industry by 6.3% and in the electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply by 3.8%.

In October 2018 working day adjusted data showed an increase by 1.8% in the **construction production**, compared to the same month of 2017. On an annual basis in October 2018, the increase of production in construction, calculated from working day adjusted data, was determined from the positive rate in the civil engineering, where the growth was by 2.5% and in the building construction - by 1.2%.

According to the preliminary data, the produced **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** at current prices in the third quarter of 2018 is 29 822 million BGN. The GDP per person amounted to 4 236 BGN. In USD terms at average quarterly exchange rate of 1.68233 BGN per dollar, the GDP amounted to 17 726 Million USD or 2 518 dollars per person. In Euro terms, the GDP is 15 248 million Euro or 2 166 Euro per person. According to the seasonally adjusted data¹, the GDP growth rate in the third quarter of 2018 is 3.1% compared to the same quarter of the previous year and 0.7% compared to the second quarter of 2018.

2. Private consumption

In October 2018, the total **consumer confidence indicator** decreased by 3.2 percentage points in comparison with to July, which is due to the decreased confidence among both urban and rural inhabitants. The opinions about the development of the general economic situation in the country over the last 12 months and the expectations over the next 12 months

are more unfavourable compared to the previous survey.

In October 2018, the working day adjusted **turnover in 'Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles'** marked rise from 4.9% in comparison with the same month of the previous year. In October 2018 compared to the same month of 2017, the turnover increased more significantly in the 'Retail sale via mail order houses or via Internet' by 17.4%, in the 'Dispensing chemist; retail sale of medical and orthopaedic goods, cosmetic and toilet articles' by 16.0%, in the 'Retail sale of audio and video equipment; hardware, paints and glass; electrical household appliances' by 10.4% and in the 'Retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco' by 7.3%. Decline was registered in the 'Retail sale of computers, peripheral units and software; telecommunications equipment' - 7.1% and in the 'Retail sale of automotive fuel' - 1.7%.

During the third quarter of 2018, 62.6% of GDP were spent for **individual consumption**. According to seasonally adjusted data¹, the indicator increased by 7.7% compared to the respective quarter of 2017.

3. Investment

In October 2018 the **average capacity utilization in industry** is by 1.5 percentage points over its July level and it reached 77.5%.

According to seasonally adjusted data¹, the **gross fixed capital formation** in the third quarter of 2018 increased in real terms by 7.0% compared to the same period of the previous year. The relative share of that indicator in GDP is 17.4%.

4. Labour market

In the third quarter of 2018 there were 3 205.3 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 712.2 thousand men and 1 493.2 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 53.3%. This share was 59.4% for men and 47.8% for women.

* From July 6, 2016 annual data is published in a separate application, which is updated every first half year.

¹ Seasonally and calendar adjusted data.



In the third quarter of 2018 there were 168.3 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 97.2 thousand (57.7%) men and 71.1 thousand (42.3%) women. **The unemployment rate** was 5.0% and went down by 0.8 percentage points from the third quarter of 2017. The unemployment rate was 5.4% for men and 4.5% for women.

In the third quarter of 2018 **the total hourly labour cost** (preliminary data) rose by 8.9% compared to the third quarter of 2017. The total hourly labour cost grew by 9.6% in industry, by 6.8% in services and by 10.0% in construction.

According to the NSI business inquiries in December 2018 34.1% of the industrial enterprises pointed out the **labour shortage** as a factor limiting their activity.

In September 2018 the **average wage and salary** was BGN 1 135 or 3.7% more compared to the previous month. Compared to September 2017 the increase was 6.7%.

5. International transactions

According to the industrial managers' assessments in December 2018 in comparison with November a decrease of the production assurance with **orders from abroad** (by 6.2 percentage points) is registered.

In October 2018 **the current account**¹ was positive amounting to EUR 56.1 million, compared with a surplus of EUR 78.8 million in October 2017. In January - October 2018 the current account was positive and amounted to EUR 2 609 million (4.9% of GDP)², compared with a surplus of EUR 3 676.2 million (7.1% of GDP)² in January - October 2017.

In October 2018 **the trade balance**¹ recorded a deficit of EUR 233.3 million, compared with a deficit of EUR 57.6 million in October 2017. In January - October 2018 the trade balance was negative amounting to EUR 1 829 million (3.5% of GDP)², compared with a deficit of EUR 251.9 million (0.5% of GDP)² in January - October 2017.

In October 2018 **exports of goods (FOB)**¹ amounted to EUR 2 756.4 million, growing by EUR 276.3 million (11.1%) from October 2017 (EUR 2 480.1 million). In January - October 2018 exports of goods totalled EUR 22 872.2 million (43.3% of GDP)², growing by EUR 474.2 million (2.1%) year-on-year (from EUR 22 398.1 million, 43.4% of GDP)². In January - October 2017 exports grew by 18.3% year-on-year. In October 2018 **imports of goods (FOB)**¹ amounted to EUR 2 989.7 million, growing by EUR 452 million (17.8%) from October 2017 (EUR 2 537.7 million). In January - October 2018 imports of goods totalled EUR 24 701.3 million (46.8% of GDP)², growing by EUR 2 051.3 million (9.1%) from January - October 2017 (EUR 22 649.9 million, 43.8% of GDP)². In January - October 2017 imports grew by 15.1% year-on-year.

In October 2018 **the net direct investment**¹ was positive amounting to EUR 5.3 million, compared with a negative balance of EUR 257.4 million in October 2017. In January - October 2018 direct investment recorded a negative balance of EUR 574.3 million (1.1% of GDP)², compared with a negative balance of EUR 779.2 million (1.5% of GDP)² in January - October 2017. **The foreign direct investment in Bulgaria**¹ (under the directional principle) grew by EUR 9.9 million in October 2018 according to preliminary data, compared with an increase of EUR 262.3 million in October 2017. **The direct investment abroad**¹ grew by EUR 15.2 million in October 2018, compared with an increase of EUR 6.5 million in October 2017.

In October 2018 **the balance on portfolio investment**¹ was positive amounting to EUR 68.7 million, compared with a positive balance of EUR 661 million in October 2017. In January - October 2018 the balance was positive and equated to EUR 898.3 million (1.7% of GDP)², compared with a positive balance of EUR 1 983.8 million (3.8% of GDP)² in January - October 2017. In October 2018 **portfolio investment - assets**¹ grew by EUR 156.6 million, compared with an increase of EUR 588.9 million in October 2017. In October 2018 **portfolio investment - liabilities**¹ grew by EUR 87.9 million compared with a decline of EUR 72.1 million in October 2017.

¹ Preliminary data. In accordance with the practice of the BNB and the data revision requirements of the ECB.

² The estimates of GDP are taken from BNB.



The **external balance** in the third quarter of 2018 is positive. **Exports** of goods and services decreases by 3.6%, while **imports** of goods and services increases by 4.0% (according to seasonally adjusted data)¹.

6. Prices

In November 2018 the **harmonized index of consumer prices** increased by 3.0% compared to November 2017. The highest decrease was registered in 'Clothing and footwear' - by 0.8%.

In second quarter of 2018 the **house price index** increased by 7.5% compared to same quarter of 2017.

Producer Price Index on Domestic Market in November 2018 increased by 3.5% compared to the same month of 2017. The domestic prices rose in the electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply by 5.2%, in the manufacturing by 3.0%, while in the mining and quarrying industry the prices fell by 3.7%.

According to the business inquiry in December 2018, the majority of the managers foresee the **selling prices in industry** to preserve their level over the next 3 months.

7. Monetary and financial indicators

In June 2018 the **three-month interbank market index SOFIBOR**² decreased in comparison with June 2017 by 0.16 percentage points from 0.11% to minus 0.05%.

In November 2018 broad money money (**monetary aggregate M3**)² increased annually by 9.3% compared to 9.7% annual growth in October 2018. At the end of November 2018 M3 was BGN 91.999 billion (89.1% of GDP)³ compared to BGN 92.408 billion (89.5% of GDP)³ in October 2018.

The **loans to Non-financial corporations, households and NPISHs**² in November 2018 amounted to BGN 54.811 billion. In November 2018, loans to Non-financial corporations increased by 5.5% annually (4.8% annual growth in October 2018) and at

the end of the month amounted to BGN 33.054 billion (32.0% of GDP)³. Loans to Households and NPISHs were BGN 21.757 billion (21.1% of GDP)³ at the end of November 2018.

In November 2018 the **exchange rate BGN against the USD** reached BGN 1.72 per USD.

¹ Seasonally and calendar adjusted data.

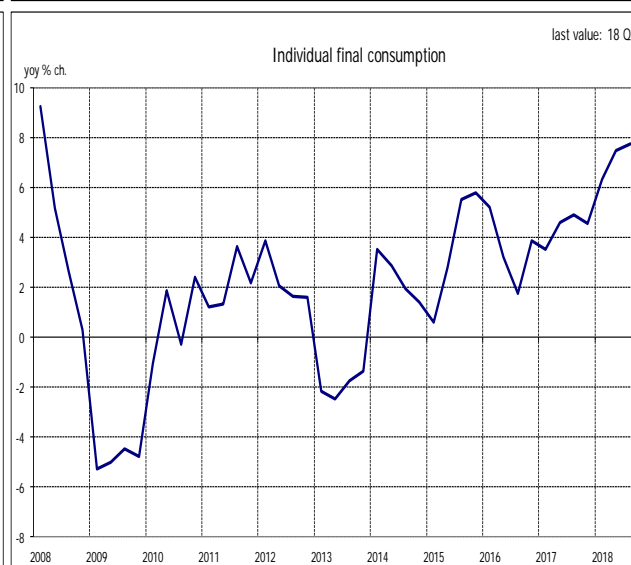
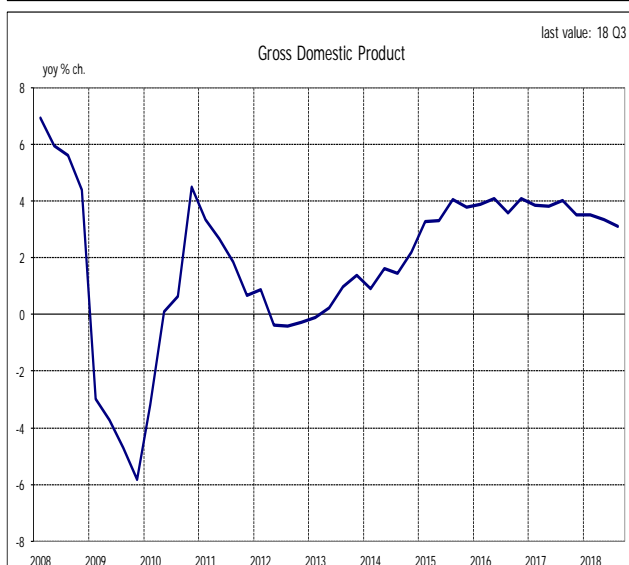
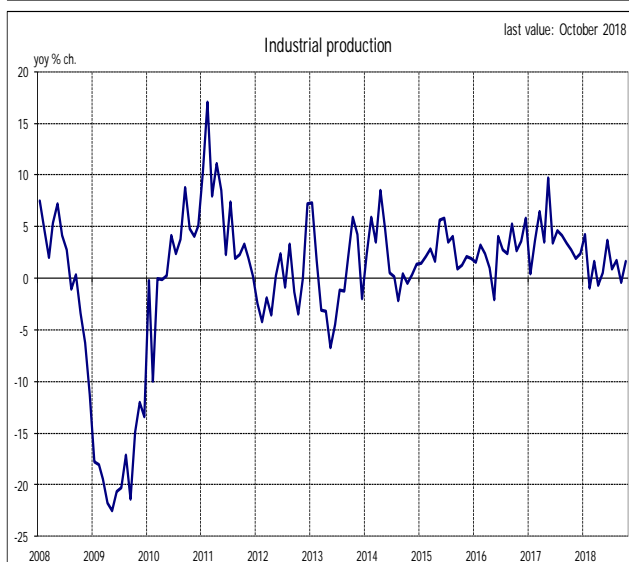
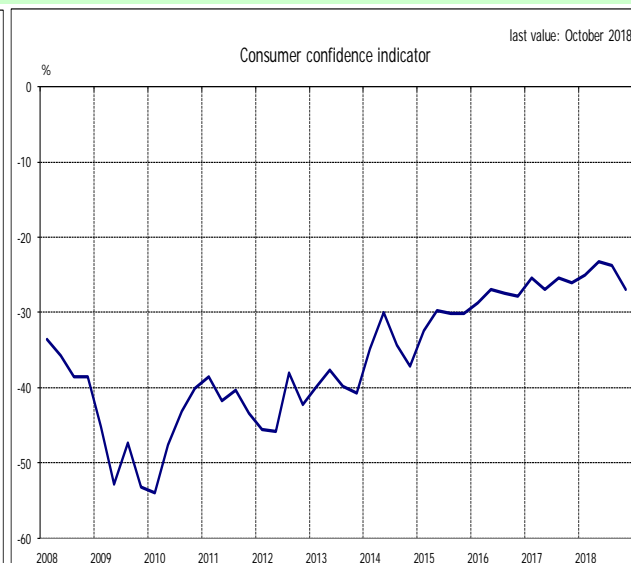
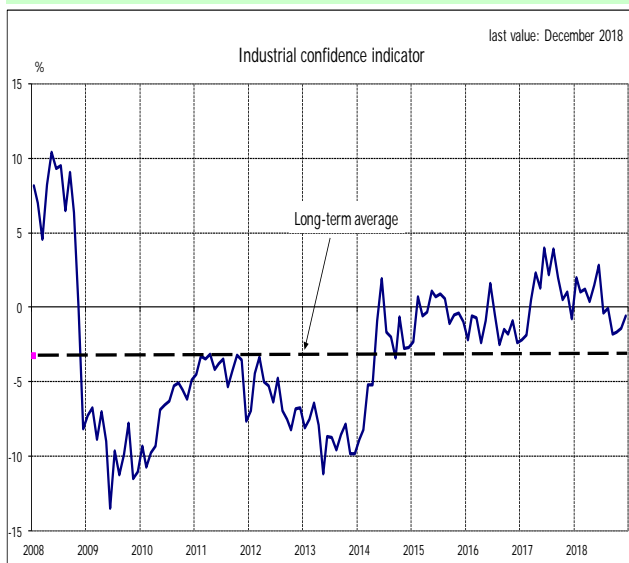
² Preliminary data. In accordance with the practice of the BNB and the data revision requirements of the ECB.

³ The estimates of GDP are taken from BNB.



1. OUTPUT

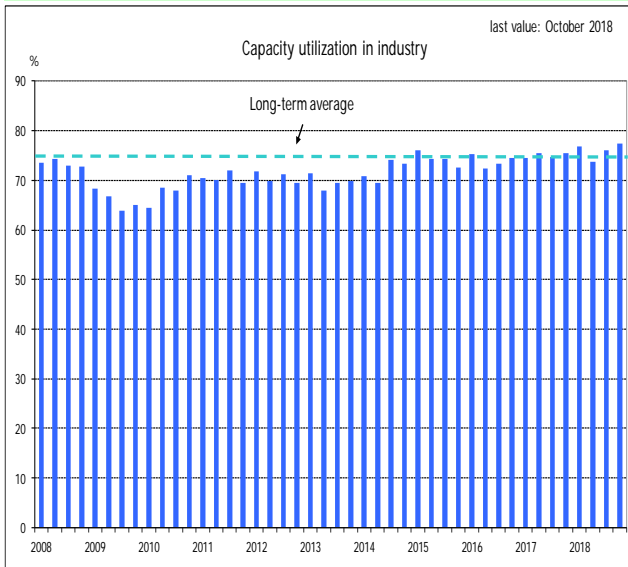
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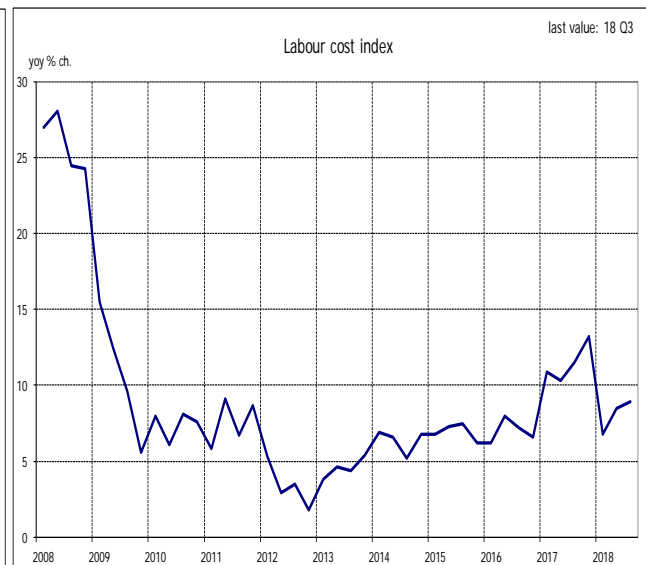
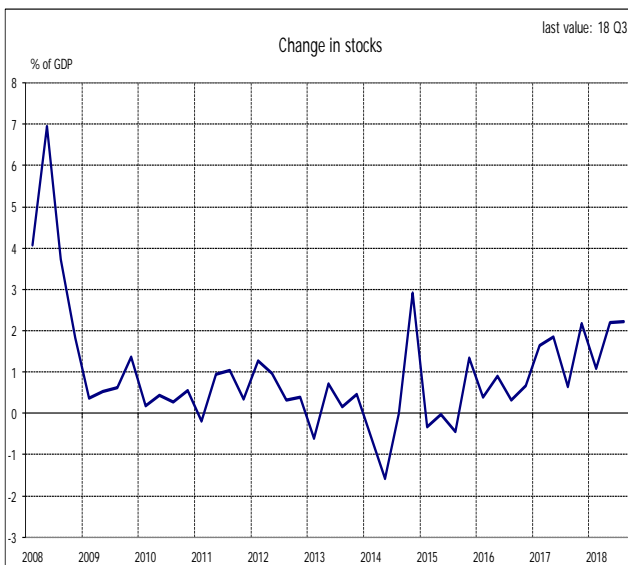
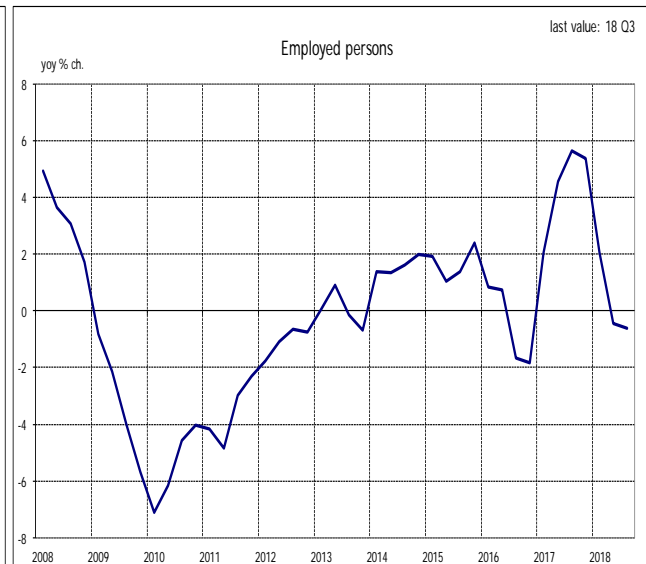
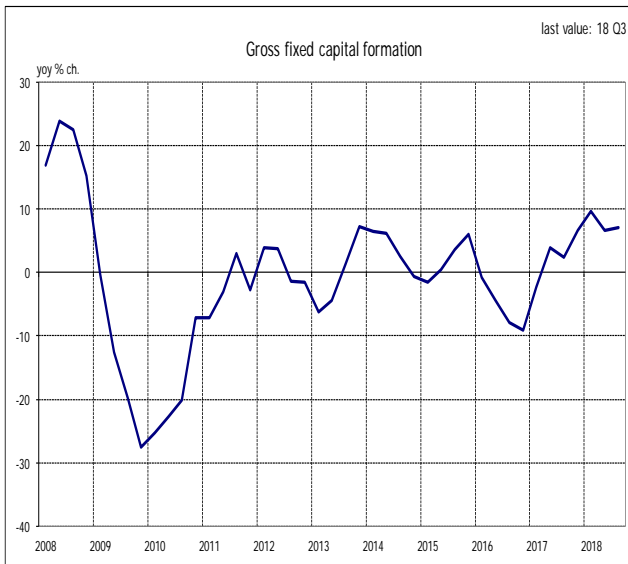
Note: yoy % ch. - growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.



3. INVESTMENT



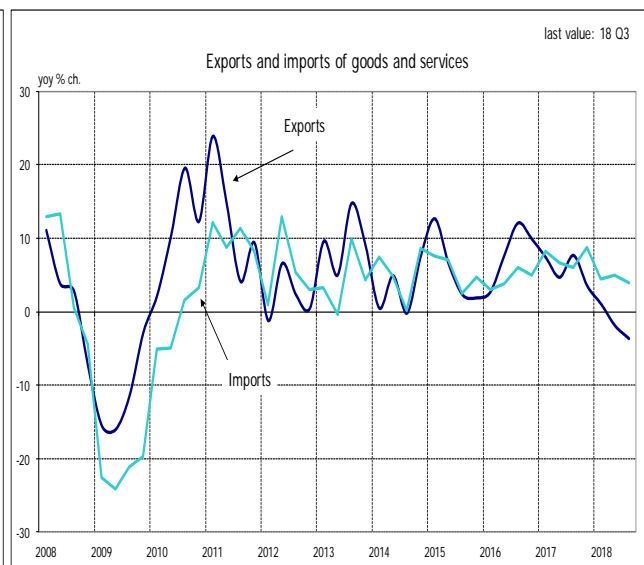
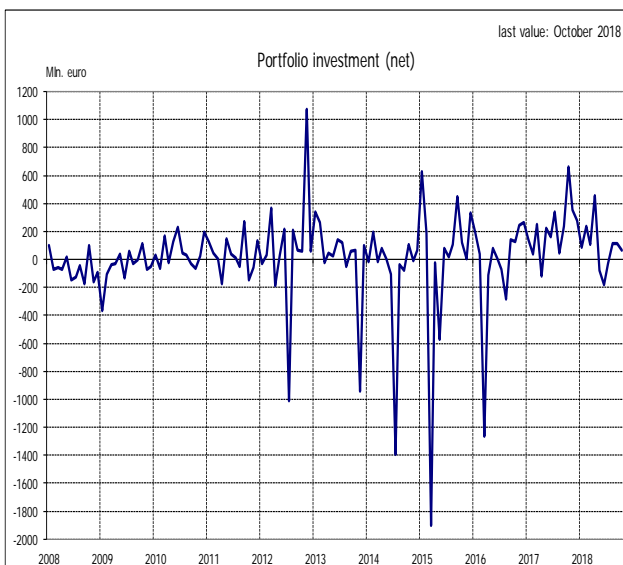
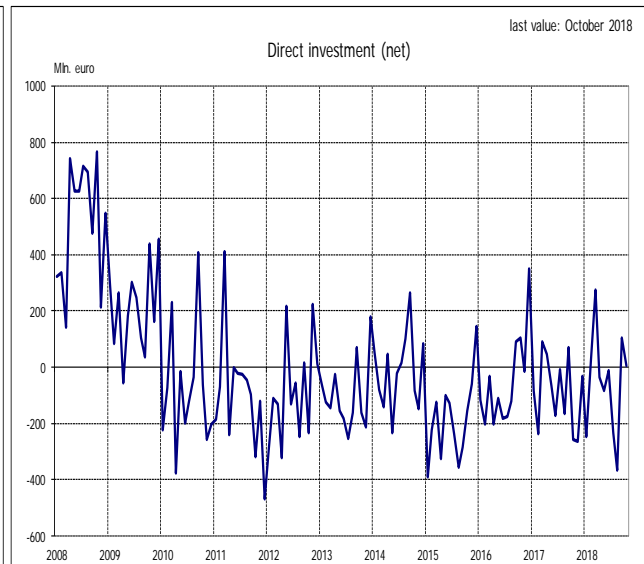
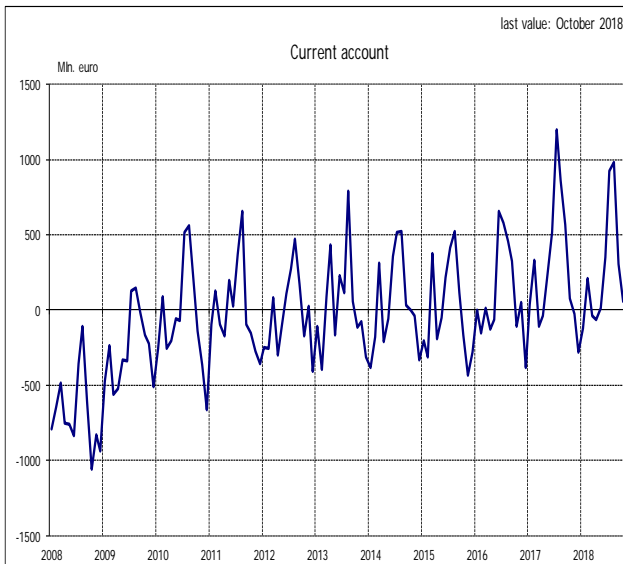
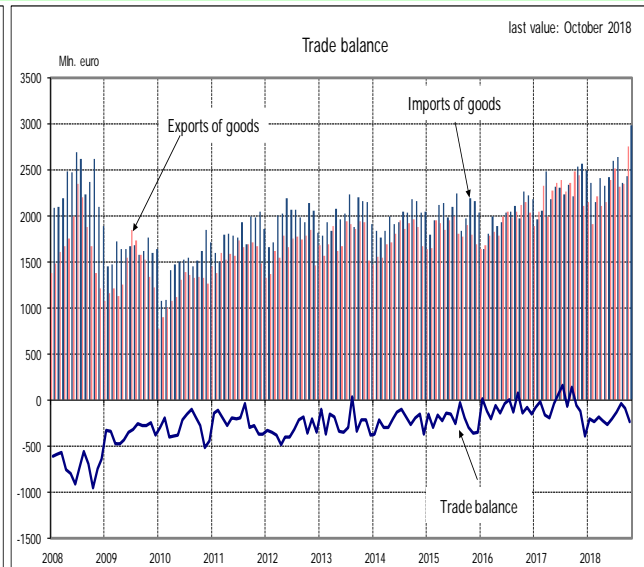
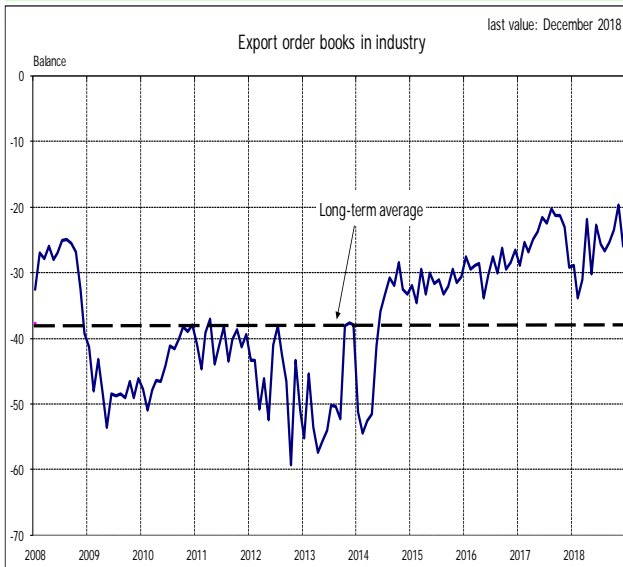
4. LABOUR MARKET



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



5. INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS



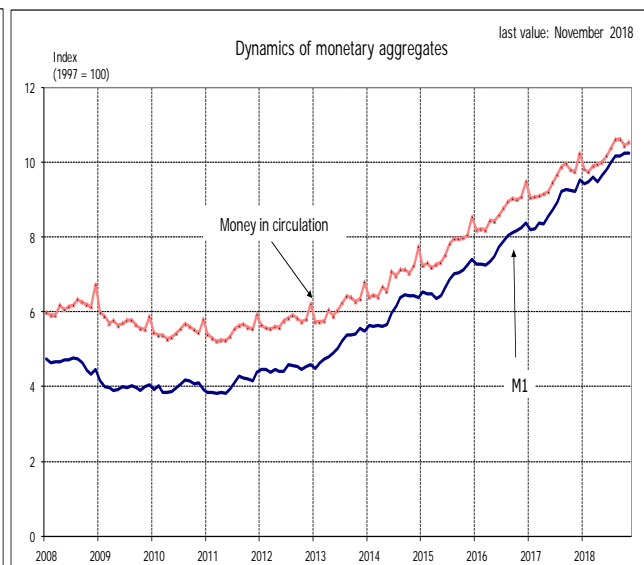
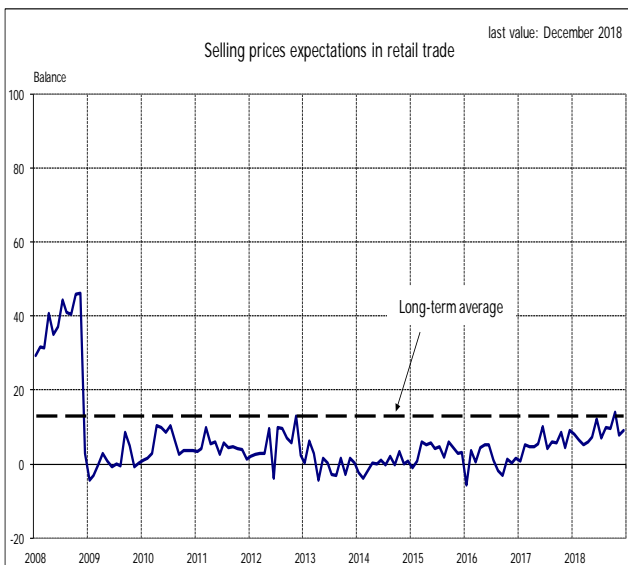
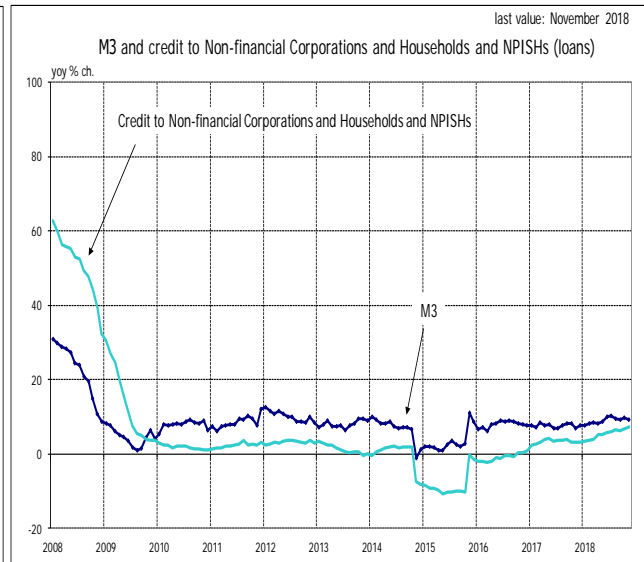
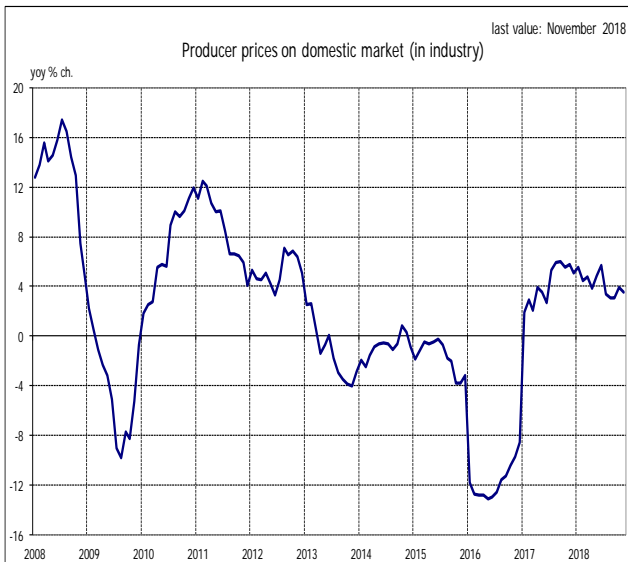
Note: yoy % ch. - growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.



6. PRICES



7. MONETARY AND FINANCIAL INDICATORS



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



Key indicators for Bulgaria - Methodological notes

№	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 the previous year, working day adjusted data.	NSI
1.3.	Construction Production	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, working day adjusted data.	NSI
1.4.	Gross Domestic Product	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
2. Private consumption			
2.1.	Consumer confidence indicator	Consumer survey. The consumer confidence indicator is an arithmetic average of balances of the expectations about the economic and financial situation, unemployment and savings of households over the next 12 months.	NSI
2.2.	Turnover in retail trade	Turnover in retail trade (excluding motor vehicles) at constant prices, growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, working day adjusted data.	NSI
2.3.	Individual final consumption	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
3. Investment			
3.1.	Capacity utilization	Average capacity utilization in industry, as a percentage 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 the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
3.3.	Change in stocks	As a percentage of GDP. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
4. Labour market			
4.1.	Unemployment rate	Ratio between the unemployed persons and the economically active population in Bulgaria (data from Labour force survey).	NSI
4.2.	Employment rate	Ratio between the employed persons and the total population of the same age group (data from Labour force survey).	NSI
4.3.	Employed persons	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year (data from Labour force survey).	NSI
4.4.	Labour costs	Index of hourly labour costs incurred by the employers as a result of engaging the workforce, growth rate compared to the same period of previous year, working day adjusted data.	NSI
4.5.	Shortage of labour	Percentage of firms in industry pointing out shortage of labour as a constraint to production.	NSI
4.6.	Wages	Growth rate of the average monthly wages of the employees under labour contract nominal value compared to the same period of the previous year.	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 (according BPM6), Analytical presentation, million EUR. Information on the methodology and data on BNB indicators can be found on the website of the BNB, Statistics section - http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm	BNB
5.3.	Imports of goods	Balance of payment (according BPM6), Analytical presentation, million EUR. Information on the methodology and data on BNB indicators can be found on the website of the BNB, Statistics section - http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm	BNB
5.4.	Trade balance	Balance of payment (according BPM6), Analytical presentation, million EUR. Information on the methodology and data on BNB indicators can be found on the website of the BNB, Statistics section - http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm	BNB
5.5.	Current account	Balance of payment (according BPM6), Analytical presentation, million EUR. Information on the methodology and data on BNB indicators can be found on the website of the BNB, Statistics section - http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm	BNB
5.6.	Direct investment	(net) million EUR, balance of payment (according BPM6), Analytical presentation. Information on the methodology and data on BNB indicators can be found on the website of the BNB, Statistics section - http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm	BNB
5.7.	Portfolio investment	(net) million EUR, balance of payment (according BPM6), Analytical presentation. Information on the methodology and data on BNB indicators can be found on the website of the BNB, Statistics section - http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm	BNB



5.8.	Exports of goods and services	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
5.9.	Imports of goods and services	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects. Data are presented according to ESA '10.	NSI
6.	Prices		
6.1.	Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.	NSI
6.2.	House price	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year. Data refers to new and existing dwellings (apartments).	NSI
6.3.	Producer prices on domestic market (in industry)	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.	NSI
6.4.	Selling price expectations in industry	Business survey in industry. Balance of positive and negative replies.	NSI
6.5.	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 the previous year (monthly value: value at the end of the month).	BNB
7.3.	Credit to Non-financial Corporations and Households and NPISHs (loans)	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year (monthly value: value at the end of the month).	BNB
7.4.	Exchange rate USD/BGN	Period averages.	BNB