I have the pleasure to present to the readers' attention the 64th edition of the National Statistical Institute "Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Bulgaria 1996" which affords to users from the country and abroad rich information on demographic, economic and social development of the country for the period 1991-1995.

The issue is designed as a convenient statistical reference book with introductory methodological notes at the beginning of each chapter.

The issue contains data on all branches of the material and non-material spheres of the national economy.

Special attention is paid to the development of the private sector of economy, as well as the privatization and the agrarian reform in the country.

Separate chapters present information about districts of the Republic of Bulgaria in 1995 and data on other countries from the world, which gives the opportunity for comparative analyses in regional and international aspects.

The issue compounds information from periodic statistical observations and researches of the NSI, as well as data delivered by ministries and organizations.

The National Statistical Institute would like to express most sincere appreciation to all persons and institutions who contributed for the current Statistical Yearbook and would welcome all suggestions and comments of the Bulgarian and foreign users of the issue who would help to improve the future editions.

Prof. Zakhari Karamfilov President of the NSI of Bulgaria