



## Key indicators for Bulgaria\*

This update: 2 April 2012

Next update: 2 July 2012

		2009	2010	2011	Sept.-11	Oct.-11	Nov.-11	Dec.-11	Jan.-12	Feb.-12
<b>1. Output</b>										
Industrial confidence <sup>1.1</sup>	%	-9.5	-7.2	-4.2	-4.3	-3.2	-3.5	-7.6	-7.0	-4.5
Industrial production <sup>1.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	-17.9	1.8	6.2	3.6	3.4	1.7	0.1	-3.6	
		<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>10Q3</b>	<b>10Q4</b>	<b>11Q1</b>	<b>11Q2</b>	<b>11Q3</b>	<b>11Q4</b>
Gross domestic product <sup>1.3</sup>	yoy % ch.	-5.5	0.4	1.7	0.3	3.9	3.2	2.2	1.6	1.6
<b>2. Private consumption</b>										
Consumer confidence <sup>2.1</sup>	%	-49.6	-46.2	-41.0	-40.1	-38.6	-41.7	-40.4	-43.4	-45.6
		<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Sept.-11</b>	<b>Oct.-11</b>	<b>Nov.-11</b>	<b>Dec.-11</b>	<b>Jan.-12</b>	<b>Feb.-12</b>
Turnover in retail trade <sup>2.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	-7.5	-8.4	-1.8	-3.4	-5.2	-5.4	-2.5	-2.6	
		<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>10Q3</b>	<b>10Q4</b>	<b>11Q1</b>	<b>11Q2</b>	<b>11Q3</b>	<b>11Q4</b>
Private consumption <sup>2.3</sup>	yoy % ch.	-7.6	0.6	-0.2	0.5	1.6	0.8	0.5	1.2	1.0
<b>3. Investment</b>										
Capacity utilization in industry <sup>3.1</sup>	%	66.0	68.0	70.5	71.1	70.5	70.1	72.0	69.4	71.9
Gross fixed capital formation <sup>3.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	-17.6	-18.3	-9.7	-21.6	-6.5	-5.5	-6.9	-7.4	-9.7
Change in stocks <sup>3.3</sup>	% of GDP	0.5	0.1	2.2	0.1	0.1	-0.7	3.6	3.9	1.3
<b>4. Labour market</b>										
Unemployment rate <sup>4.1</sup>	%	6.8	10.2	11.2	9.5	11.2	12.0	11.2	10.2	11.4
Employed persons <sup>4.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	-3.2	-6.2	-3.4	-5.4	-4.7	-4.0	-4.5	-2.8	-2.3
Labour costs <sup>4.3</sup>	yoy % ch.	12.2	9.5	8.5	10.5	8.0	7.2	9.9	7.2	9.7
		<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Sept.-11</b>	<b>Oct.-11</b>	<b>Nov.-11</b>	<b>Dec.-11</b>	<b>Jan.-12</b>	<b>Feb.-12</b>
Shortage of labour in industry <sup>4.4</sup>	%	11.1	6.5	7.5	8.0	7.4	7.0	7.1	8.7	9.4
Wages <sup>4.5</sup>	yoy % ch.	11.8	6.4	9.1	8.5	8.6	8.4	8.8		
<b>5. International transactions</b>										
Export order books in industry <sup>5.1</sup>	balance	-47.6	-43.5	-40.6	-40.1	-38.7	-41.3	-39.4	-43.4	-43.3
Exports of goods <sup>5.2</sup>	mln. EUR	11699.2	15561.2	20226.7	1790.4	1821.6	1754.8	1585.2	1431.5	
Imports of goods <sup>5.3</sup>	mln. EUR	-15873.1	-18324.8	-22201.3	-1956.1	-1989.9	-2120.2	-1907.8	-1607.9	
Trade balance <sup>5.4</sup>	mln. EUR	-4173.9	-2763.7	-1974.6	-165.7	-168.3	-365.4	-322.7	-176.4	
Current account <sup>5.5</sup>	mln. EUR	-3116.2	-375.8	361.4	117.7	-80.9	-305.3	-328.9	-112.0	
Direct investment (net) <sup>5.6</sup>	mln. EUR	2505.3	1035.4	1204.8	155.9	348.5	167.0	388.2	37.4	
Portfolio investment (net) <sup>5.7</sup>	mln. EUR	-619.1	-661.2	-357.2	-273.8	145.8	57.1	-135.8	40.0	
		<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>10Q3</b>	<b>10Q4</b>	<b>11Q1</b>	<b>11Q2</b>	<b>11Q3</b>	<b>11Q4</b>
Exports of goods and services <sup>5.8</sup>	yoy % ch.	-11.2	14.7	12.8	25.3	12.7	21.5	13.2	5.4	12.6
Imports of goods and services <sup>5.9</sup>	yoy % ch.	-21.0	2.4	8.5	3.2	8.4	13.6	8.1	9.0	4.5
<b>6. Prices</b>										
HICP <sup>6.1</sup>	yoy % ch.	2.5	3.0	3.4	2.9	3.0	2.6	2.0	1.9	2.0
Producer prices on domestic market (in industry) <sup>6.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	-4.2	7.2	8.7	6.6	6.4	5.9	4.1	5.3	
Selling prices expectations in industry <sup>6.3</sup>	balance	1.6	5.5	8.8	5.4	6.6	7.4	8.8	7.6	7.8
Selling prices expectations in retail trade <sup>6.4</sup>	balance	0.7	5.4	4.7	4.7	4.2	4.0	1.4	2.2	2.6
<b>7. Monetary and financial indicators</b>										
SOFIBOR (3 months) <sup>7.1</sup>	index	5.72	4.12	3.76	3.67	3.68	3.64	3.64	3.34	3.19
M3 <sup>7.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	4.2	6.4	12.2	10.3	9.6	7.8	12.2	12.7	11.7
Credit to Non-financial Corporations and Households and NPISHs <sup>7.3</sup>	yoy % ch.	3.6	1.2	3.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.4	2.6	2.6
Exchange rate USD/BGN <sup>7.4</sup>	value	1.41	1.48	1.41	1.42	1.43	1.44	1.48	1.52	1.48
Nominal effective exchange rate <sup>7.5</sup>	index	134.0	130.5	132.1	132.7	133.1	132.6	132.1	131.2	

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

\* The key indicators are elaborated in accordance with the Euro zone indicators system. The analytical document is quarterly updated. Source of the data are the NSI statistical surveys and BNB data.



## Comments

### 1. Output

According to the NSI business inquiries in March 2012 the **industrial confidence indicator** increases by 1.2 percentage points in comparison with February. The last inquiry registered a decrease of the level of stocks of finished goods.

In January 2012 working day adjusted **Industrial Production Index** fell by 3.6% as compared to the same month of 2011 (by preliminary data). A decrease was recorded in Manufacturing - by 4.1%, and in Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply - by 3.1%, while in Mining and quarrying industry was registered an increase of 0.8%.

By preliminary operative data the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** in the fourth quarter of 2011 amounted to BGN 19 465.4 million at current prices and GDP per capita was BGN 2 638.5. At the average exchange rate for the quarter of BGN 1.4515 for 1 US dollar, GDP amounted to USD 13 410 million and respectively USD 1 817.8 per capita. GDP recalculated in Euro was EUR 9 952.5 million or EUR 1 349 euro per capita. In comparison with the fourth quarter of 2010 the real volume of GDP increased by 1.6% according to the seasonally adjusted data.

### 2. Private consumption

In January 2012 the total **consumer confidence indicator** decreases by 2.2 percentage points in comparison with its level in October 2011 which is entirely due to a worsening of consumer confidence among the urban population.

In January 2012 the working day adjusted **turnover in Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles** declined by 2.6% in comparison with the same month of the previous year (by preliminary data). An increase was observed in 'Dispensing chemist; retail sale of medical and orthopaedic goods, cosmetic and toilet articles' by 10.0% and in the 'Retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco' by 0.2%. A drop was registered in the 'Retail sale of textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods' by 17.2%, in the 'Retail sale of audio and video equipment; hardware, paints and glass; electrical household appliances' by 6.4%, in the 'Retail sale of automotive fuel' by 5.6%

and in the 'Retail sale of computers, peripheral units and software; telecommunications equipments' by 1.6%.

In the fourth quarter of 2011 for **individual consumption of the population** were spent 73.1% of the produced GDP. The real increase of the indicator was by 1.0% in comparison with the respective quarter of 2010 (according to the seasonally adjusted data).

### 3. Investment

The **average capacity utilization in industry** in January 2012 increased by 2.5 percentage points compared to October 2011 and was assessed to be 71.9%.

In the fourth quarter of 2011 the **gross fixed capital formation** decreased in real terms (according to the seasonally adjusted data) by 9.7% in comparison with the same period of the previous year. The relative share of that category in GDP is 23.4%.

### 4. Labour market

In the fourth quarter of 2011 the **total number of employed persons** aged 15 and over was 2 955.2 thousand and their relative share of the population of the same age group was 45.7%. In comparison with the same period of 2010 the number of persons employed decreased by 68.5 thousand, or by 2.3% and the employment rate - by 0.6 percentage points.

In the fourth quarter of 2011 the **number unemployed persons** was 380.9 thousand and the unemployment rate - 11.4%. The number of unemployed persons compared to the same quarter of the previous year decreased by 1.5 thousand and the unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage points.

According to the NSI business inquiries in March 2012, 7.8% of the industrial enterprises pointed out the **labour shortage** as a factor limiting their activity.

In December 2011 the **average wage and salary** was BGN 752 (by preliminary data) which is by 4.0% higher than the previous month. In comparison with December 2010 the growth rate is 8.8%.



## 5. International transactions

According to the industrial managers' assessments in March 2012 compared to February a shrinking of the orders from abroad by 7.5 percentage points was registered.

In January 2012 the **current account** was negative and amounted to EUR 112.0 million (0.3% of the predicted GDP for 2012), against a deficit of EUR 67.2 million (0.2% of GDP) for January 2011. The main factor for the increase in the current account deficit was the higher trade deficit (by EUR 157.7 million).

The **trade balance** in January 2012 was negative amounting to EUR 176.4 million (0.4% of the GDP projected for 2012), against a deficit of EUR 18.7 million in January 2011.

**Exports of goods (FOB)** in January 2012 amounted to EUR 1 431.5 million against EUR 1 593.9 million in January 2011, decreasing by 10.2%, against a year-on-year increase of 74.6% for January 2011. **Imports of goods (FOB)** in January 2012 amounted to EUR 1 607.9 million, against EUR 1 612.5 million in January 2011 decreasing by 0.3% year-on-year, against a year-on-year increase of 45.8% in January 2011.

The **Foreign direct investment abroad** in January 2012 amounted to EUR 6.8 million against EUR 13.1 million in January 2011. The **Foreign direct investment in Bulgaria** was EUR 44.2 million (0.1% of the predicted GDP for 2012) against EUR 186.1 million (0.5% of GDP) in January 2011.

In January 2012 the **portfolio investment – assets** decreased by EUR 111.6 million, against an increase of EUR 15.0 million in January 2011. **Portfolio investment – liabilities** decreased by EUR 71.6 million against a decrease by EUR 112.4 million for January 2011.

In the fourth quarter of 2011 the external balance (exports-imports) was negative. In comparison with the respective quarter of 2010 the **exports of goods and services** increased in real terms by 12.6%, while the **imports** increased by 4.5% (according to the seasonally adjusted data).

## 6. Prices

In February 2012 the **harmonized index of consumer prices** increased by 2.0% compared to the same month of the previous year. A rise of prices was observed in all groups, with the exception of “Recreation and culture”, “Communications”, “Furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house” and “Alcoholic beverages and tobacco”. The highest increase was registered in “Health” - by 6.8%.

The **Producer Price Index on Domestic Market** in January 2012 grew by 5.3% compared to the same month of 2011. The domestic prices increased in the manufacturing by 6.3% and in the electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply by 5.1%, while in the mining and quarrying industry the prices went down by 3.4%.

According to the conjuncture inquiry in March 2012 the majority of the industrial entrepreneurs do not intend to increase selling prices in the branch over the next 3 months.

## 7. Monetary and financial indicators

In February 2012 the **three-month interbank market index SOFIBOR** decreased from 3.34 to 3.19% in comparison with the previous month, whereas the value in February 2011 was 3.88%.

The annual growth rate of **broad money (monetary aggregate M3)** was 11.7% in February 2012 compared to 12.7% in January, as at the end of February M3 was BGN 57.406 billion (71.3% of GDP projected for 2012) compared to BGN 57.401 billion (71.3% of GDP) in January 2012.

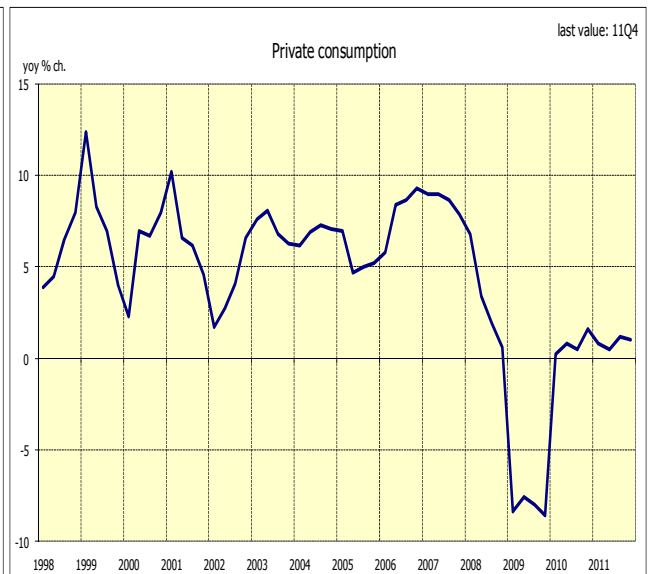
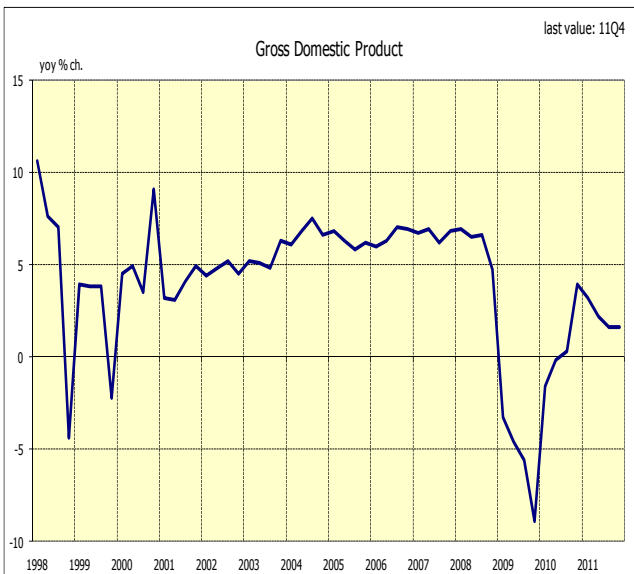
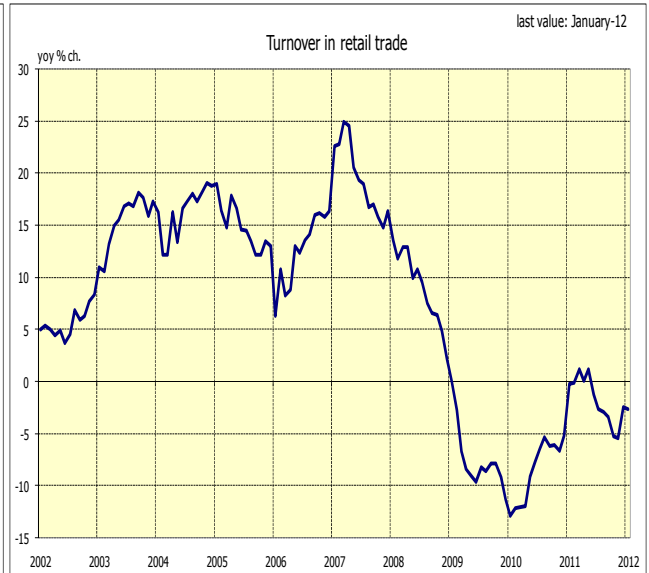
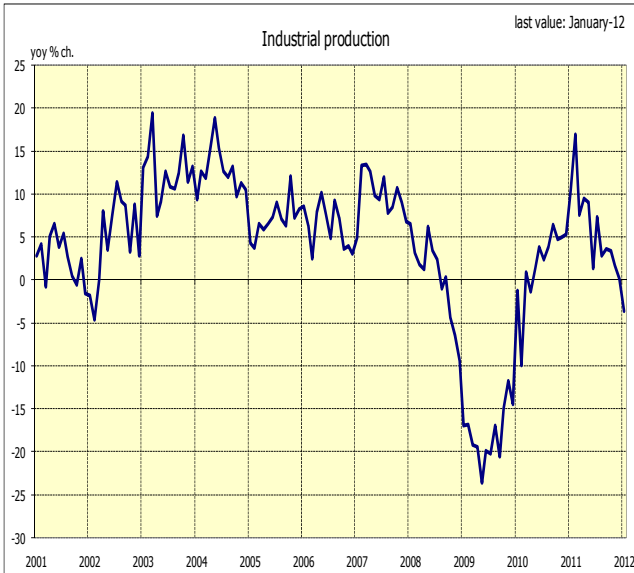
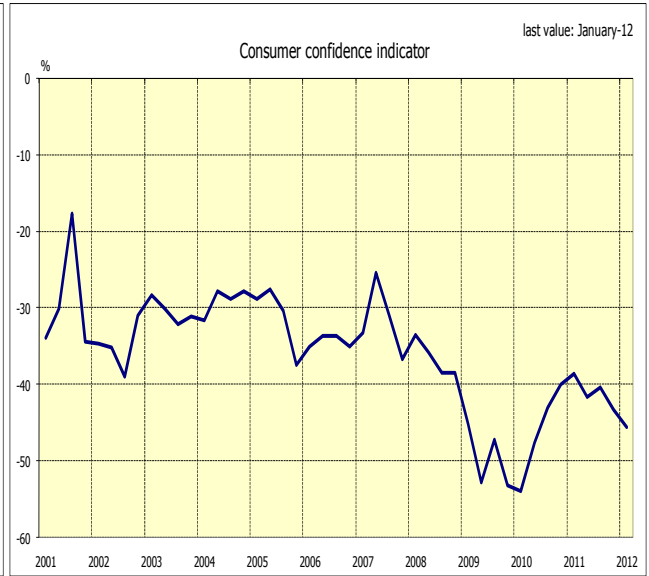
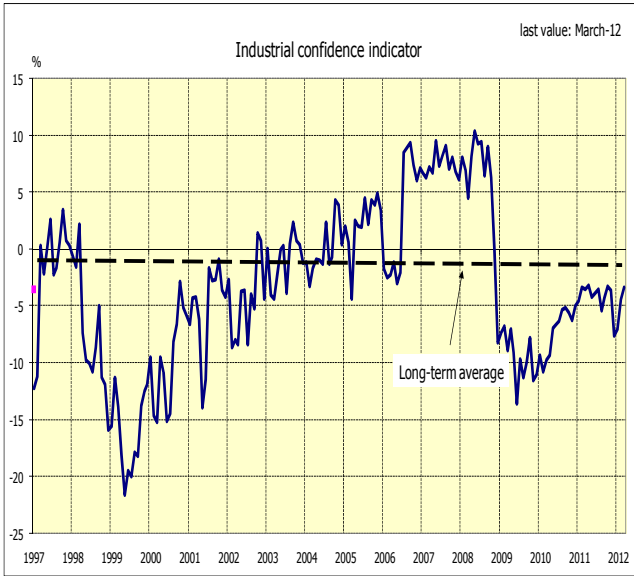
In February 2012 the volume of the **loans to non-financial corporations, households and NPISHs** amounted to BGN 51.874 billion (64.5% of the GDP projected for 2012). The annual growth rate of the loans to non-financial corporations in February was 4.8% against 4.7% in the previous month; the loans to the households and NPISHs in February decreased by 1.0% in comparison with the same month of 2011 against an annual decrease of 0.8% in January 2012.

In February 2012 the **exchange rate BGN against the US dollar** decreased in comparison with the previous month from 1.52 to 1.48.



**1. OUTPUT**

**2. PRIVATE CONSUMPTION**

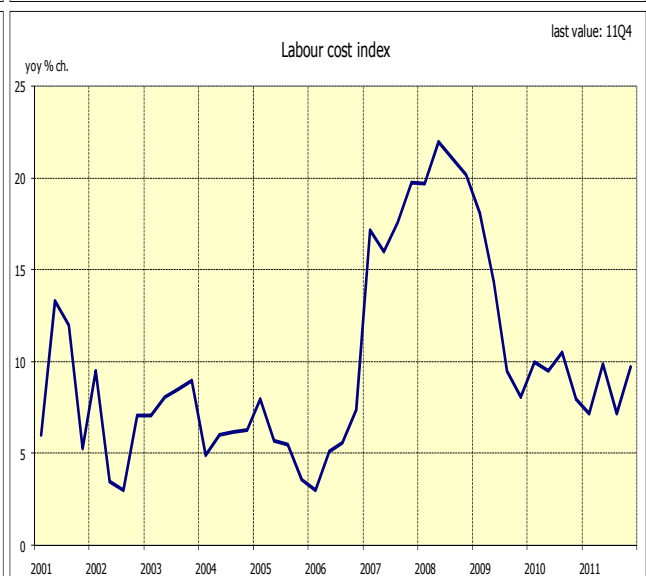
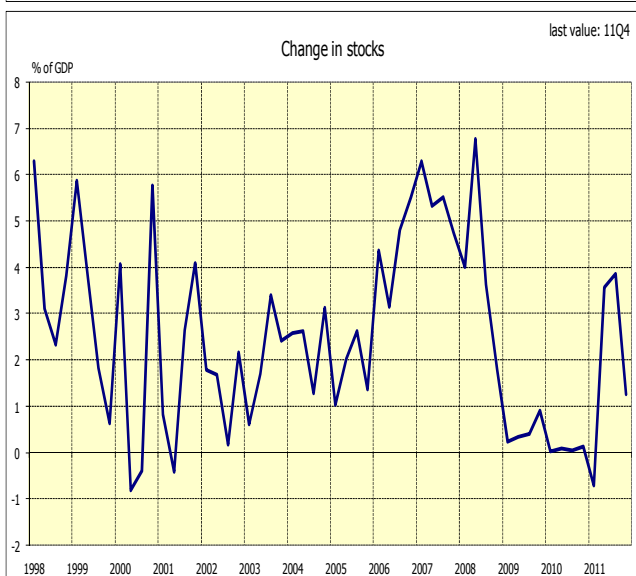
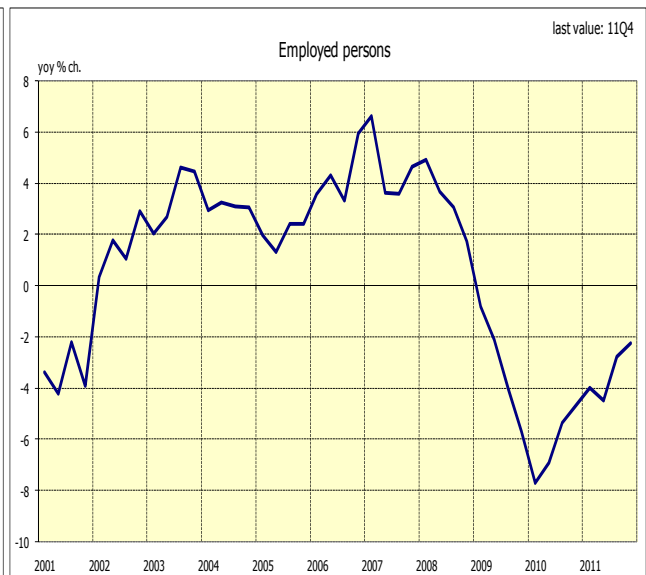
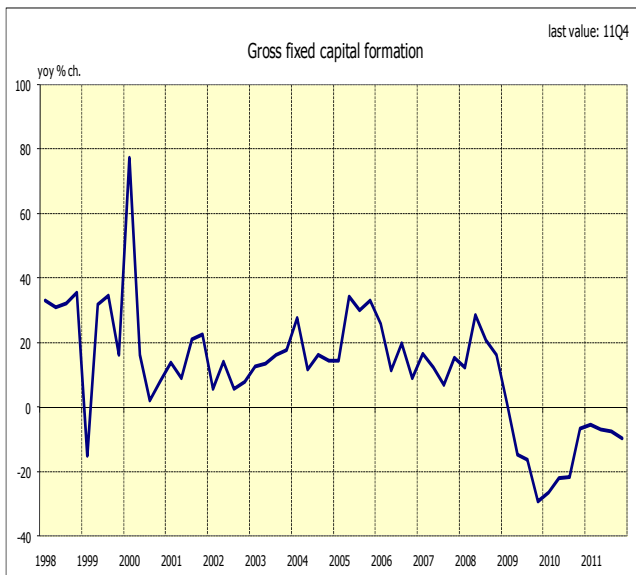
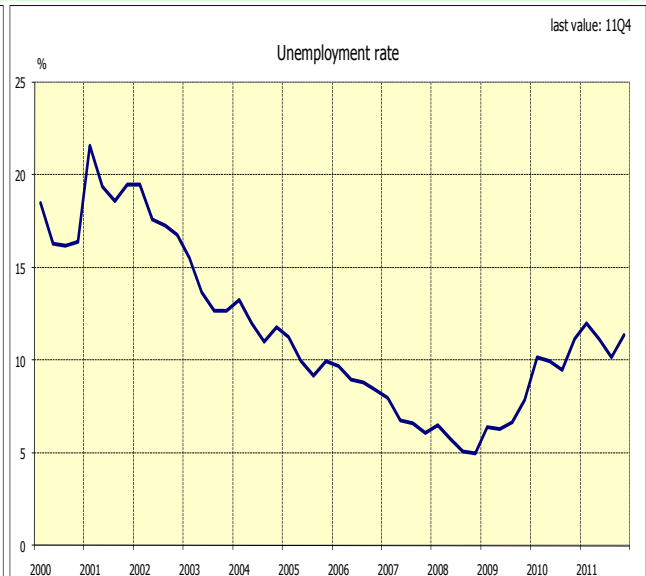
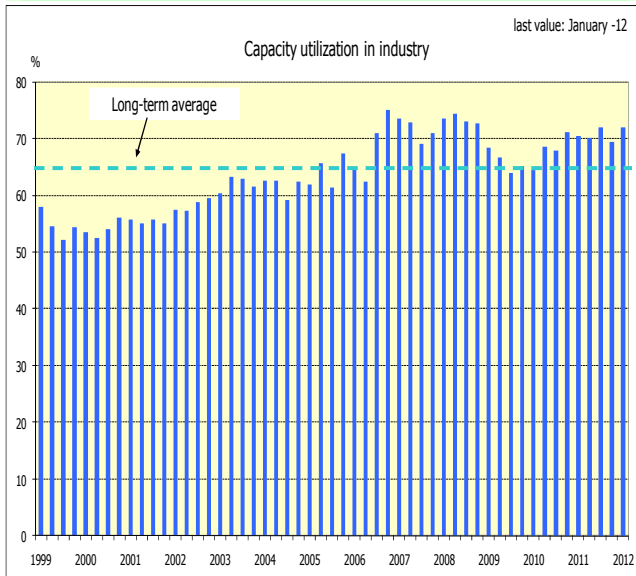


**Note:** yoy % ch. - growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.



### 3. INVESTMENT

### 4. LABOUR MARKET

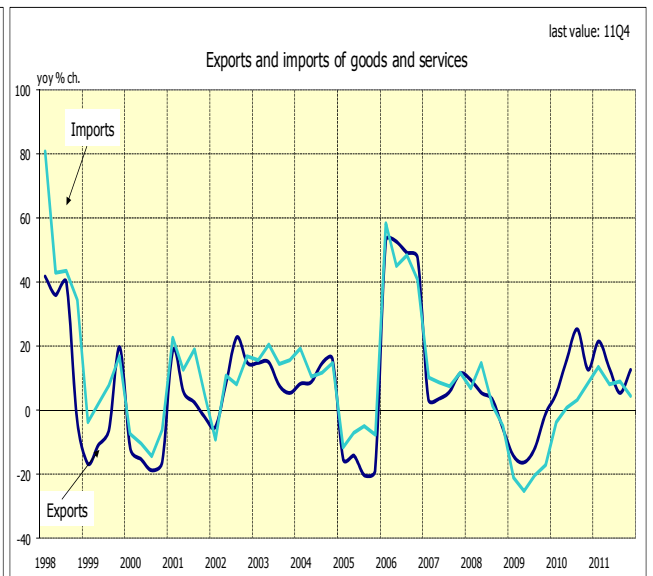
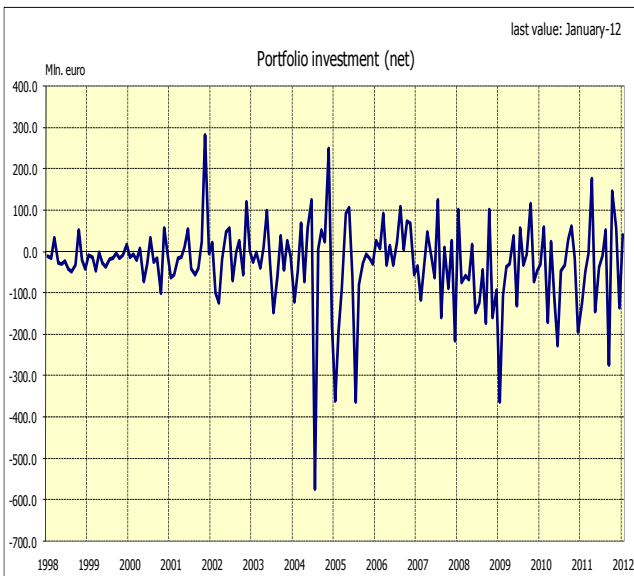
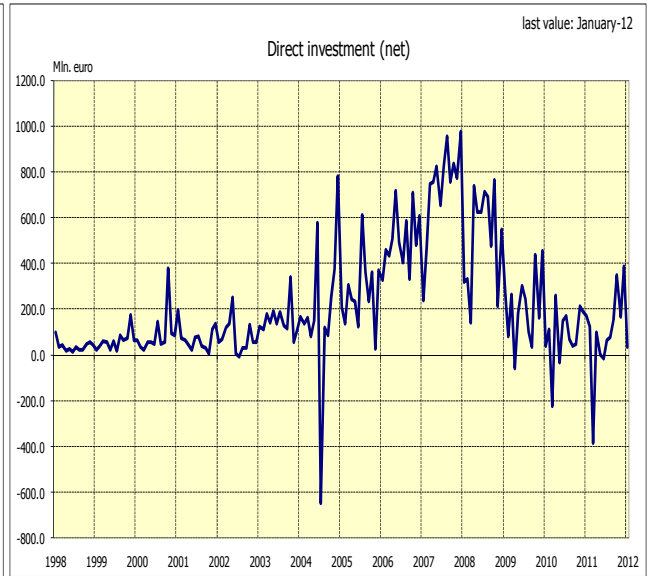
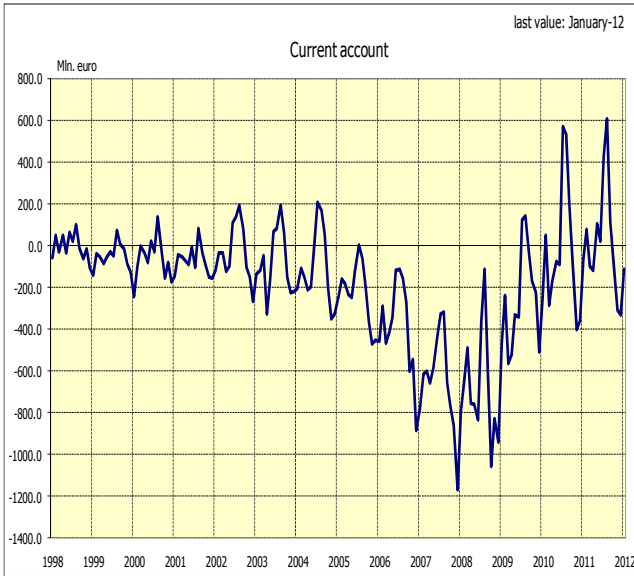
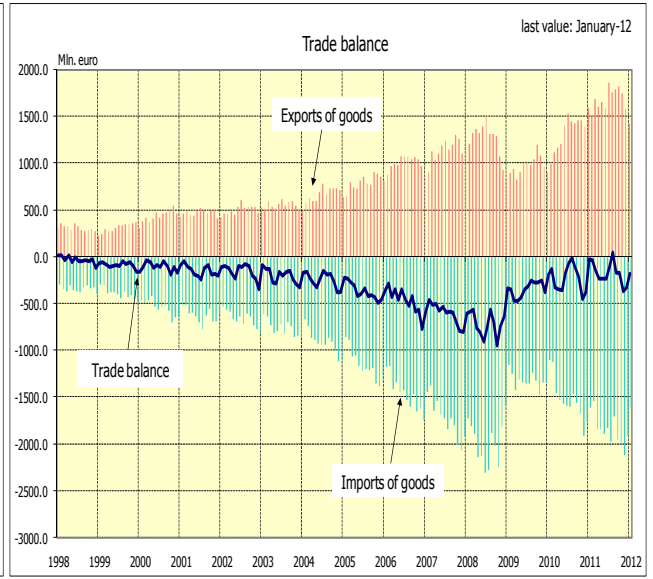
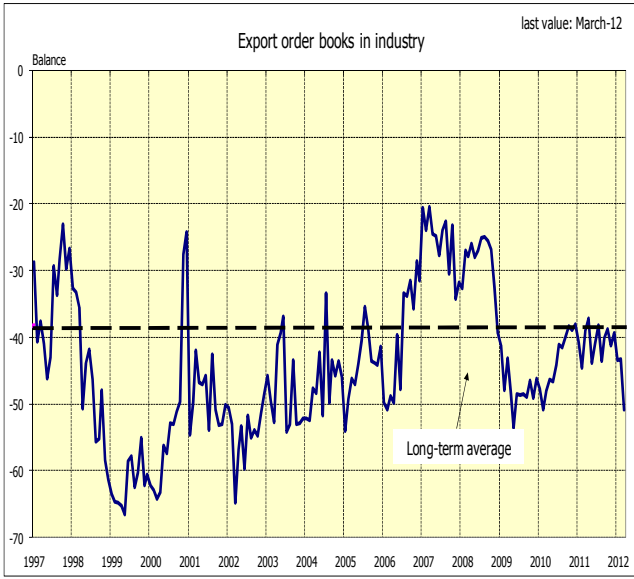


**Note:** yoy % ch. - growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.





**5. INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS**

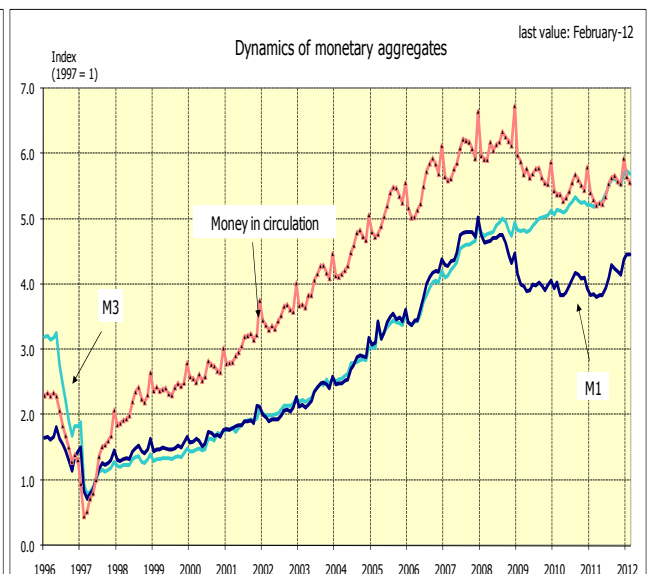
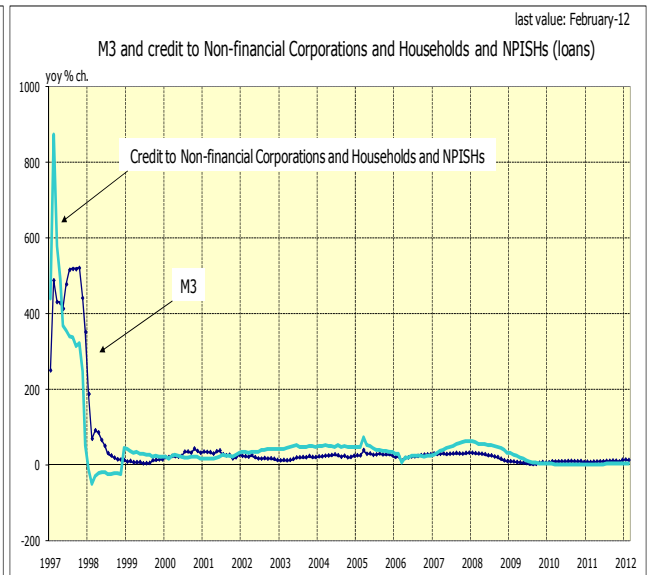
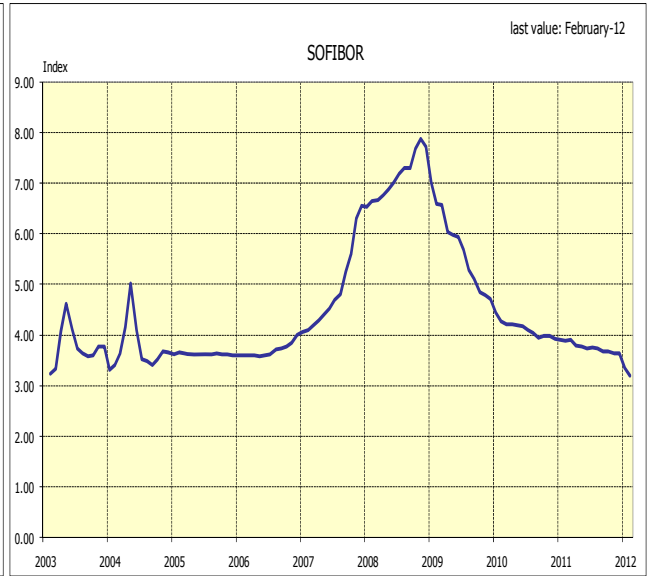
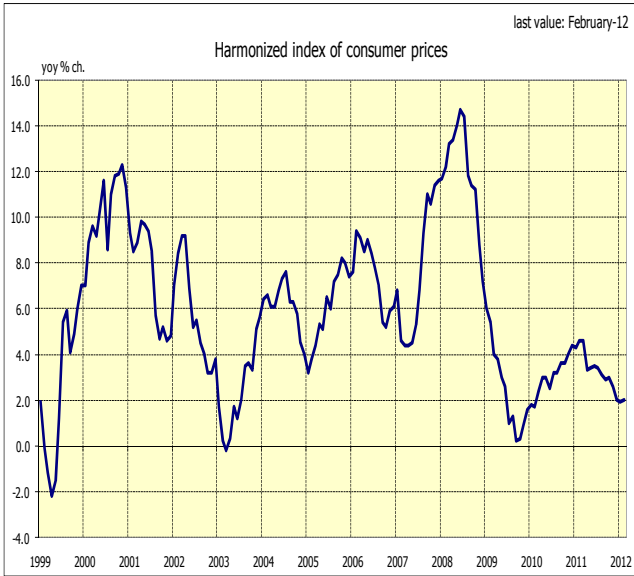


**Note:** yoy % ch. - growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.



**6. PRICES**

**7. MONETARY AND FINANCIAL INDICATORS**



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



<b>Key indicators for Bulgaria - Methodological notes</b>			
<b>№</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Source</b>
<b>1. Output</b>			
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.	Gross Domestic Product	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects.	NSI
<b>2. Private consumption</b>			
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), growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, working day adjusted data.	NSI
2.3.	Private consumption	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, seasonally adjusted data corrected for working day effects.	NSI
<b>3. Investment</b>			
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.	NSI
3.3.	Change in stocks	As a percentage of GDP.	NSI
<b>4. Labour market</b>			
4.1.	Unemployment rate	Relative share of the unemployed persons of the economically active population in Bulgaria (data from Labour force survey).	NSI
4.2.	Employed persons	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year (data from Labour force survey).	NSI
4.3.	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
4.4.	Shortage of labour	Percentage of firms in industry pointing out shortage of labour as a constraint to production.	NSI
4.5.	Wages	Nominal value, growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year, average monthly wages of the employees under labour contract.	NSI
<b>5. International transactions</b>			
5.1.	Export order books	Business survey in industry. Balance of positive and negative replies.	NSI
5.2.	Exports of goods	Balance of payment, million EUR.	BNB
5.3.	Imports of goods	Balance of payment, million EUR.	BNB
5.4.	Trade balance	Balance of payment, million EUR.	BNB
5.5.	Current account	Balance of payment, million EUR.	BNB
5.6.	Direct investment	(net) million EUR, balance of payment.	BNB
5.7.	Portfolio investment	(net) million EUR, balance of payment.	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.	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.	NSI
<b>6. Prices</b>			
6.1.	Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.	NSI
6.2.	Producer prices on domestic market (in industry)	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.	NSI
6.3.	Selling price expectations in industry	Business survey in industry. Balance of positive and negative replies.	NSI
6.4.	Selling price expectations in retail trade	Business survey in retail trade. Balance of positive and negative replies.	NSI
<b>7. Monetary and financial indicators</b>			
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
7.5.	Nominal effective exchange rate	Index (June 1997=100).	BNB