


**Key indicators for Bulgaria\***

 This update: 4 October 2019  
 Next update: 31 December 2019

		Febr.'19	March'19	April'19	May'19	June'19	July'19	August'19	Sept.'19
<b>1. Output</b>									
Industrial confidence <sup>1.1</sup>	%	-1.9	-4.2	-1.3	0.5	-0.5	1.3	-0.7	-1.8
Industrial production <sup>1.2**</sup>	yoy % ch.	6.9	2.8	2.7	0.9	-3.4	-0.9		
Construction Production <sup>1.3**</sup>	yoy % ch.	8.5	7.9	5.5	2.9	1.7	4.3		
		<b>17 Q4</b>	<b>18 Q1</b>	<b>18 Q2</b>	<b>18 Q3</b>	<b>18 Q4</b>	<b>19 Q1</b>	<b>19 Q2</b>	<b>19 Q3</b>
Gross domestic product <sup>1.4</sup>	yoy % ch.	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.5	
<b>2. Private consumption</b>									
Consumer confidence <sup>2.1</sup>	%	-25.0	-23.2	-23.8	-27.0	-25.1	-25.8	-25.0	
		<b>Febr.'19</b>	<b>March'19</b>	<b>April'19</b>	<b>May'19</b>	<b>June'19</b>	<b>July'19</b>	<b>August'19</b>	<b>Sept.'19</b>
Turnover in retail trade <sup>2.2**</sup>	yoy % ch.	-0.1	0.6	1.2	0.4	0.1	3.7		
		<b>17 Q4</b>	<b>18 Q1</b>	<b>18 Q2</b>	<b>18 Q3</b>	<b>18 Q4</b>	<b>19 Q1</b>	<b>19 Q2</b>	<b>19 Q3</b>
Individual final consumption <sup>2.3</sup>	yoy % ch.	4.6	6.3	7.5	7.7	5.7	4.9	2.8	
<b>3. Investment</b>									
Capacity utilization in industry <sup>3.1</sup>	%	76.8	73.7	76.0	77.5	77.5	75.7	76.9	
Gross fixed capital formation <sup>3.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	6.6	9.7	6.6	7.0	6.6	2.5	2.2	
Change in stocks <sup>3.3</sup>	% of GDP	2.2	1.1	2.2	2.2	1.1	1.2	1.0	
<b>4. Labour market</b>									
Unemployment rate <sup>4.1</sup>	%	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.0	4.7	5.0	4.2	
Unemployment rate - male	%	5.6	6.3	6.1	5.4	4.9	5.3	4.6	
Unemployment rate - female	%	5.7	5.1	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.6	3.7	
Employment rate 15+ <sup>4.2</sup>	%	52.3	51.5	52.5	53.3	52.5	52.7	54.7	
Employment rate 20-64	%	72.1	71.1	72.6	73.5	72.5	73.1	75.7	
Employed persons <sup>4.3</sup>	yoy % ch.	5.4	2.1	-0.5	-0.6	-0.6	1.6	3.3	
Labour costs <sup>4.4</sup>	yoy % ch.	13.1	6.7	8.5	8.9	5.1	12.9	11.0	
		<b>Febr.'19</b>	<b>March'19</b>	<b>April'19</b>	<b>May'19</b>	<b>June'19</b>	<b>July'19</b>	<b>August'19</b>	<b>Sept.'19</b>
Shortage of labour in industry <sup>4.5</sup>	%	33.9	37.0	33.0	31.2	34.9	34.4	31.1	32.0
Wages <sup>4.6</sup>	yoy % ch.	12.9	12.6	11.9	12.3	12.0			
<b>5. International transactions</b>									
Export order books in industry <sup>5.1</sup>	balance	-22.8	-25.8	-27.5	-25.3	-23.7	-18.1	-21.8	-25.3
Exports of goods <sup>5.2</sup>	mln. EUR	2308.4	2378.8	2257.8	2330.0	2259.3	2714.9		
Imports of goods <sup>5.3</sup>	mln. EUR	2478.7	2508.4	2347.9	2444.7	2225.2	2723.8		
Trade balance <sup>5.4</sup>	mln. EUR	-170.2	-129.5	-90.1	-114.7	34.1	-8.9		
Current account <sup>5.5</sup>	mln. EUR	347.1	71.4	66.9	403.8	972.4	955.9		
Direct investment (net) <sup>5.6</sup>	mln. EUR	-161.1	-12.1	-137.6	-75.0	-136.2	38.8		
Portfolio investment (net) <sup>5.7</sup>	mln. EUR	76.2	221.4	75.8	-2.0	286.8	-93.2		
		<b>17 Q4</b>	<b>18 Q1</b>	<b>18 Q2</b>	<b>18 Q3</b>	<b>18 Q4</b>	<b>19 Q1</b>	<b>19 Q2</b>	<b>19 Q3</b>
Exports of goods and services <sup>5.8</sup>	yoy % ch.	3.5	1.0	-1.9	-3.6	1.4	5.1	3.7	
Imports of goods and services <sup>5.9</sup>	yoy % ch.	8.8	4.4	5.0	4.0	1.6	3.9	-2.0	
<b>6. Prices</b>									
HICP <sup>6.1</sup>	yoy % ch.	2.4	2.8	3.1	2.9	2.3	2.6	2.5	
		<b>17 Q4</b>	<b>18 Q1</b>	<b>18 Q2</b>	<b>18 Q3</b>	<b>18 Q4</b>	<b>19 Q1</b>	<b>19 Q2</b>	<b>19 Q3</b>
HPI <sup>6.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	8.2	7.1	7.5	6.3	5.5	7.3	5.0	
		<b>Febr.'19</b>	<b>March'19</b>	<b>April'19</b>	<b>May'19</b>	<b>June'19</b>	<b>July'19</b>	<b>August'19</b>	<b>Sept.'19</b>
Producer prices on domestic market (in industry) <sup>6.3**</sup>	yoy % ch.	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.4	2.6	3.9	4.5	
Selling prices expectations in industry <sup>6.4</sup>	balance	3.7	0.8	3.8	4.3	3.7	4.0	1.3	0.2
Selling prices expectations in retail trade <sup>6.5</sup>	balance	11.5	12.9	14.5	8.8	9.1	7.2	9.0	8.3
<b>7. Monetary and financial indicators</b>									
M3 <sup>7.1</sup>	yoy % ch.	10.4	10.4	11.1	9.1	7.8	7.9	7.7	
Credit to Non-financial Corporations and Households and NPISHs <sup>7.2</sup>	yoy % ch.	7.9	7.5	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.5	
Exchange rate USD/BGN <sup>7.3</sup>	value	1.71	1.74	1.74	1.75	1.72	1.75	1.77	

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.

\*\* 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.

\*\*\* In accordance with the decision of the Governing council of the BNB announced on 16 March 2017, as of 1 July 2018 the BNB discontinued the activities in relation to the calculation and publication of the SOFIBID and SOFIBOR reference rates.



## Comments\*

### 1. Output

According to the NSI business inquiries in September 2019, the **industrial confidence indicator** decreases by 1.1 percentage points in comparison with August 2019.

In July 2019 the working day adjusted **Industrial Production Index** fell by 0.9% in comparison with the same month of 2018 (preliminary data). On annual basis in July 2019 Industrial Production Index calculated from working day adjusted data fell in the electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply by 2.4% and in the manufacturing by 1.1%, while the production rose in the mining and quarrying industry by 4.4%.

In July 2019 working day adjusted data showed an increase by 4.3% in **the construction production**, compared to the same month of 2018. On an annual basis in July 2019, the increase of production in construction, calculated from working day adjusted data, was determined from the positive rate in the building construction, where the growth was by 8.3%, while in the civil engineering was registered a decline by 0.8%.

According to the preliminary data the produced **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** at current prices in the second quarter of 2019 is 29 107 million BGN. The GDP per person amounted to 4 162 BGN. In USD terms at average quarterly exchange rate of 1.7398 BGN per dollar, the GDP amounted to 16 730 Million USD or 2 392 dollars per person. According to the seasonally adjusted data<sup>1</sup>, the GDP growth rate in the second quarter of 2019 is 3.5% compared to the same quarter of the previous year and 0.8% compared to the first quarter of 2019.

### 2. Private consumption

In July 2019, the **total consumer confidence indicator** increases by 0.8 percentage points compared to its level 3 months ago, which is due entirely to the increased confidence among the urban population. The consumers' total assessment of the development of the economic situation in the country

over the last 12 months marks certain improvement - an increase of the balance indicator by 2.6 percentage points. At the same time, their forecasts over the next 12 months are more favourable in comparison with the previous survey.

In July 2019, the working day adjusted **turnover in 'Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles'** marked an increase from 3.7% in comparison with the same month of the previous year. In July 2019 compared to the same month of 2018, the turnover increased in the 'Retail sale of automotive fuel' (by 6.9%), in the 'Retail sale of non-food products except fuel' (by 4.6%) and in the 'Retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco' (by 1.3%).

During the second quarter of 2019, 65.7% of GDP were spent for **individual consumption**. According to seasonally adjusted data<sup>1</sup>, the indicator increased by 2.8% compared to the respective quarter of 2018.

### 3. Investment

**The average capacity utilization in industry** from April to July increased by 1.2 percentage points and it reached 76.9%.

The relative share of **gross fixed capital formation** in GDP in the second quarter of 2019 is 20.0%. According to seasonally adjusted data<sup>1</sup> that indicator increased by 2.2% in real terms compared to the same period of the previous year.

### 4. Labour market

In the second quarter of 2019 there were 3 262.8 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 733.2 thousand men and 1 529.7 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 54.7% (60.5% for men and 49.2% for women).

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

<sup>1</sup> Seasonally and calendar adjusted data.



In the second quarter of 2019 there were 142.0 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 82.7 thousand (58.2%) men and 59.3 thousand (41.8%) women. **The unemployment rate** was 4.2% and went down by 1.3 percentage points from the second quarter of 2018. The unemployment rate decreased from 6.1% to 4.6% for men and from 4.7% to 3.7% for women.

In the second quarter of 2019 **the total hourly labour cost** (preliminary data) rose by 11.0% compared to the second quarter of 2018. The total hourly labour cost grew by 9.8% in industry, by 11.1% in services and by 10.6% in construction.

According to the NSI business inquiries in September 2019 32.0% of the industrial enterprises pointed out the **labour shortage** as a factor limiting their activity.

In June 2019 the **average wage and salary** was BGN 1 253 or 0.6% more compared to the previous month. Compared to June 2018 the increase was 12.0%.

## 5. International transactions

According to the industrial managers' assessments in September 2019 in comparison with August decrease of the production assurance with **orders from abroad** (by 3.5 percentage points) is registered.

The **current account**<sup>1</sup> was positive amounting to EUR 955.9 million in July 2019, compared with a surplus of EUR 1 002 million in July 2018. In January - July 2019 the current account was positive and amounted to EUR 2 975.6 million (5.0% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>, compared with a surplus of EUR 1 390.5 million (2.5% of GDP)<sup>2</sup> in January - July 2018.

In July 2019 **the trade balance**<sup>1</sup> recorded a deficit of EUR 8.9 million in July 2019, compared with a deficit of EUR 84.5 million in July 2018. In January - July 2019 the balance on goods was negative amounting to EUR 520.1 million (0.9% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>, compared with a deficit of EUR 1 177.3 million (2.1% of GDP)<sup>2</sup> in January - July 2018.

In July 2019 **exports of goods (FOB)**<sup>1</sup> amounted to EUR 2 714.9 million in July 2019, increasing by EUR 162.3 million (6.4%) from July 2018 (EUR 2 552.6 million). In January - July 2019 exports of goods totalled EUR 16 564.2 million (28.0% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>, growing by EUR 840.5 million (5.3%) year-on-year (from EUR 15 723.6 million, 28.5% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>. In January - July 2018 exports grew by 2.8% year-on-year. In July 2019 **imports of goods (FOB)**<sup>1</sup> amounted to EUR 2 723.8 million in July 2019, increasing by EUR 86.7 million (3.3%) from July 2018 (EUR 2 637.1 million). In January - July 2019 imports of goods totalled EUR 17 084.3 million (28.9% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>, growing by EUR 183.3 million (1.1%) from January - July 2018 (EUR 16 901 million, 30.6% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>. In January - July 2018 imports grew by 8.6% year-on-year.

**The direct investment abroad**<sup>1</sup> grew by EUR 46.8 million in July 2019, compared with an increase of EUR 26.5 million in July 2018. In July 2019 **the net direct investment**<sup>1</sup> was positive amounting to EUR 38.8 million, compared with a negative balance of EUR 88.4 million in July 2018. In January - July 2019 direct investment recorded a negative balance of EUR 301.7 million (0.5% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>, compared with a negative balance of EUR 38.9 million (0.1% of GDP)<sup>2</sup> in January - July 2018. **The foreign direct investment in Bulgaria**<sup>1</sup> (under the directional principle) grew by EUR 8 million in July 2019 according to preliminary data, compared with an increase of EUR 114.9 million in July 2018.

In July 2019 **the balance on portfolio investment**<sup>1</sup> was negative amounting to EUR 93.2 million, compared with a negative balance of EUR 60.8 million in July 2018. In January - July 2019 the balance was positive and equated to EUR 524.1 million (0.9% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>, compared with a positive balance of EUR 567.5 million (1.0% of GDP)<sup>2</sup> million in January - July 2018. In July 2019 **portfolio investment - assets**<sup>1</sup> dropped by EUR 27 million compared to an increase of EUR 36.2 million in July 2018. In July 2019 **portfolio investment - liabilities**<sup>1</sup> grew by EUR 66.2 million compared with an increase of EUR 97 million in July 2018.

**The external balance** in the second quarter of 2019 is positive. **Exports** of goods and services increased by 3.7%, whereas **imports** of goods and services

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary data. In accordance with the practice of the BNB and the data revision requirements of the ECB.

<sup>2</sup> The estimates of GDP are taken from BNB.



decreased by 2.0%. (according to seasonally adjusted data)<sup>1</sup>.

## 6. Prices

In August 2019 the **harmonized index of consumer prices** increased by 2.5% compared to August 2018. The highest decrease was registered in 'Communication' - by 3.9%.

In second quarter of 2019 the **house price index** increased by 5.0% compared to same quarter of 2018.

**Producer Price Index on Domestic Market** in August 2019 increased by 4.5% compared to the same month of 2018. The prices rose in the electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply by 11.6%, in manufacturing by 0.8%, and in the mining and quarrying industry by 0.3%.

According to the business inquiry in September 2019, the managers do not foresee a change of the **selling prices in industry** over the next 3 months.

## 7. Monetary and financial indicators

In August 2019 broad money (**monetary aggregate M3**)<sup>2</sup> increased annually by 7.7% compared to 7.9% annual growth as in July 2019. At the end of August 2019 M3 was BGN 98.507 billion (85.1% of GDP)<sup>3</sup> compared to BGN 97.570 billion (84.3% of GDP)<sup>3</sup> in July 2019.

The **loans to Non-financial corporations, households and NPISHs**<sup>2</sup> in August 2019 amounted to BGN **56.797** billion. In August 2019, loans to Non-financial corporations increased by 3.3% annually (4.3% annual growth in July 2019) and at the end of the month amounted to BGN 33.585 billion (29.0% of GDP)<sup>3</sup>. Loans to Households and NPISHs were BGN 23.212 billion (20.1% of GDP)<sup>3</sup> at the end of August 2019.

In August 2019 the **exchange rate BGN against the USD**<sup>2</sup> reached BGN 1.77 per USD.

<sup>1</sup> Seasonally and calendar adjusted data.

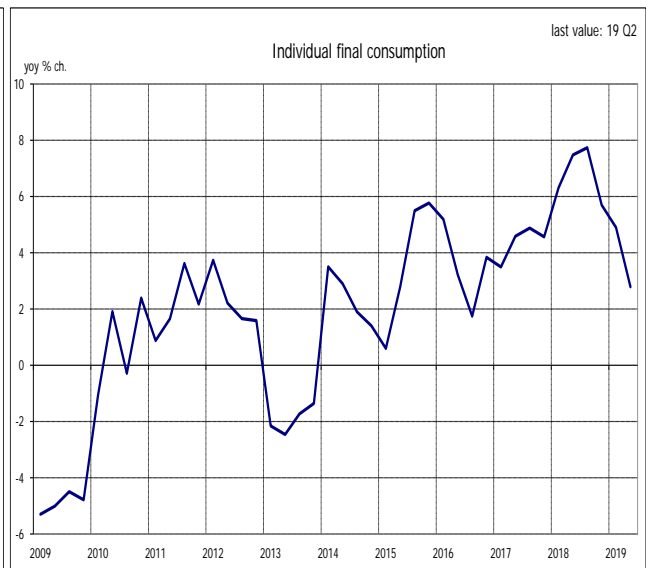
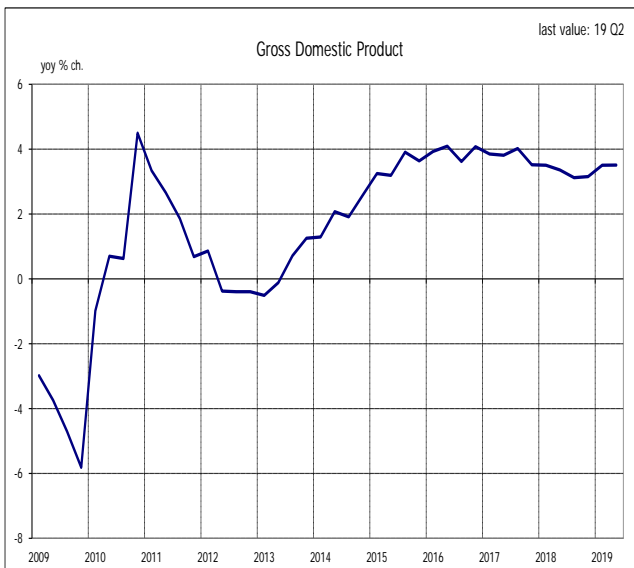
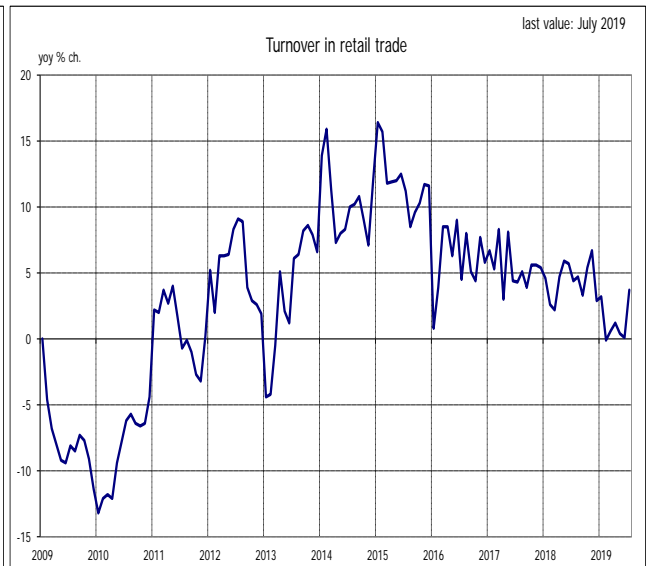
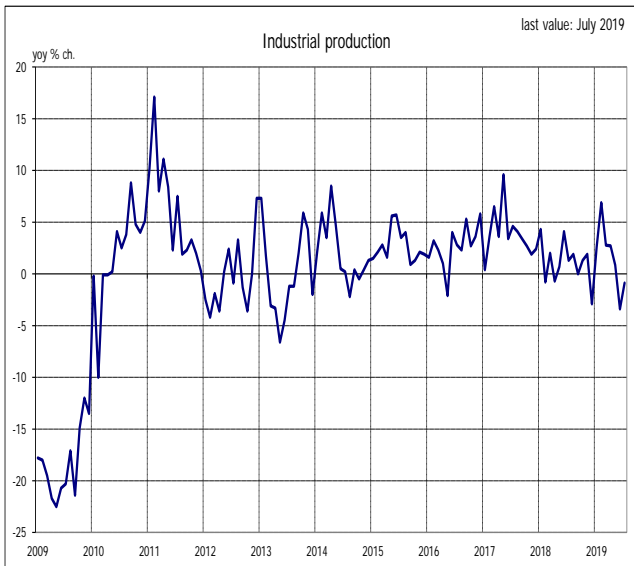
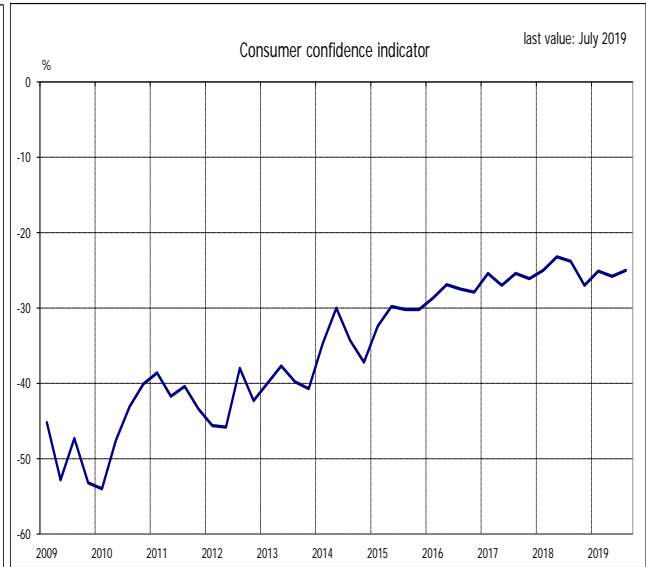
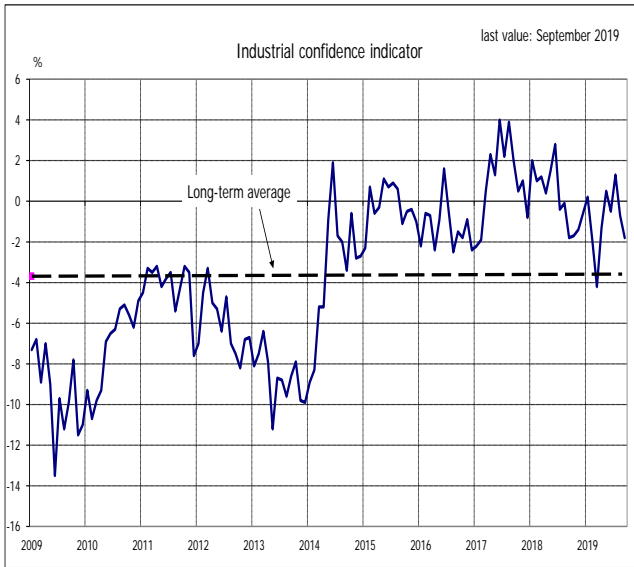
<sup>2</sup> Preliminary data. In accordance with the practice of the BNB and the data revision requirements of the ECB.

<sup>3</sup> The estimates of GDP are taken from BNB.



## 1. OUTPUT

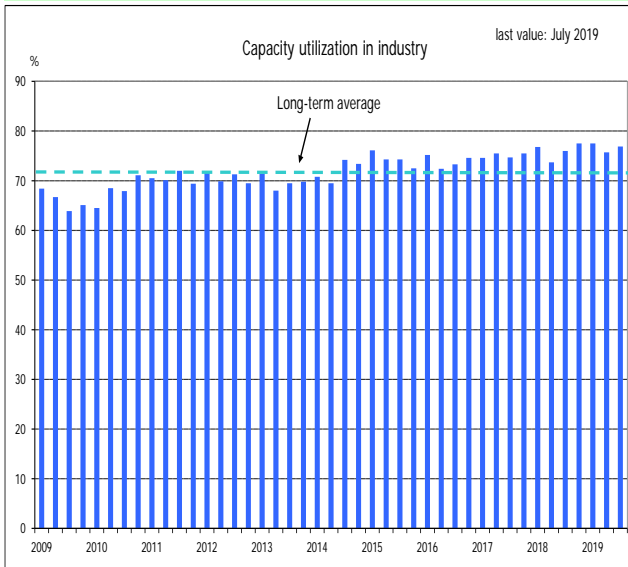
## 2. PRIVATE CONSUMPTION



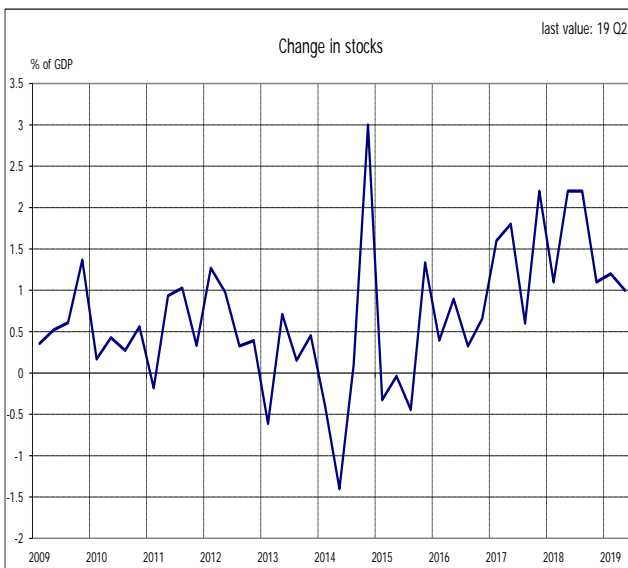
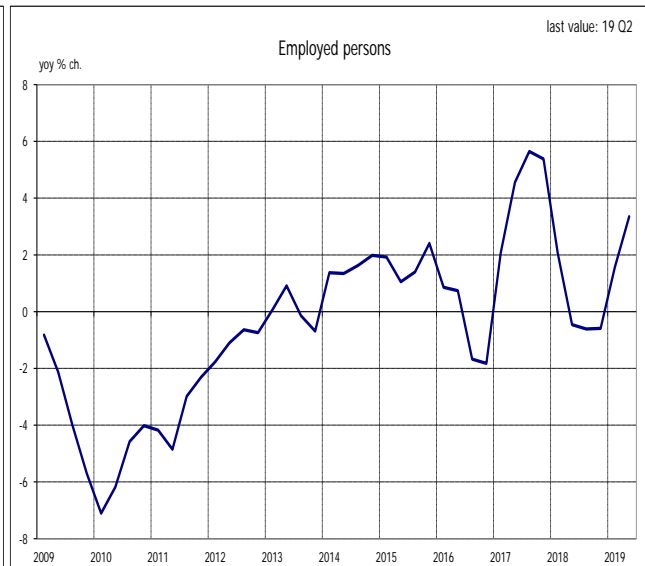
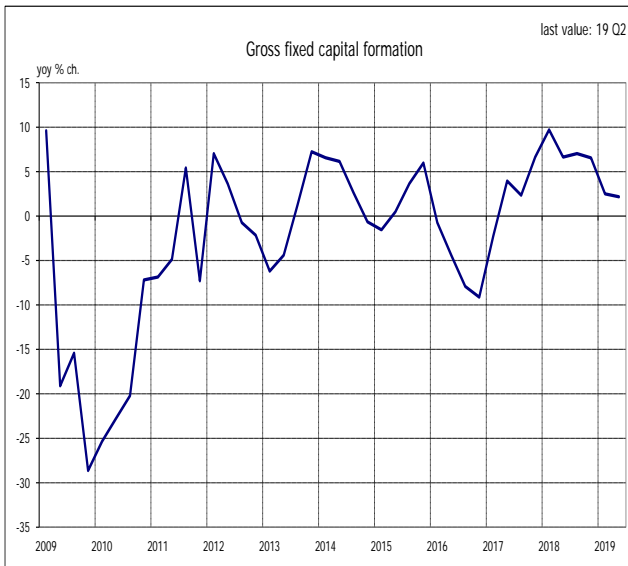
**Note:** yoy % ch. - growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.



### 3. INVESTMENT



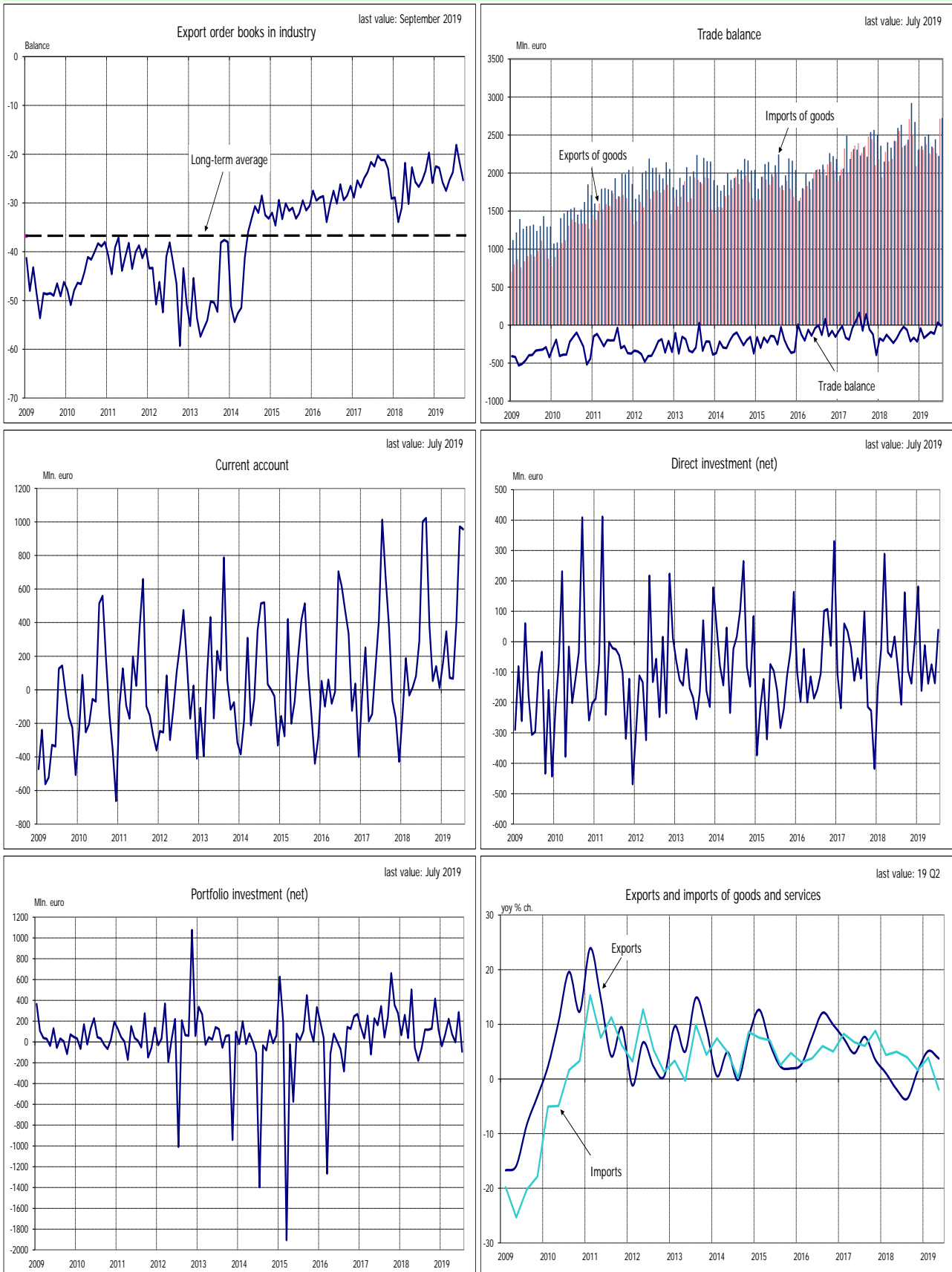
### 4. LABOUR MARKET



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



## 5. INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS



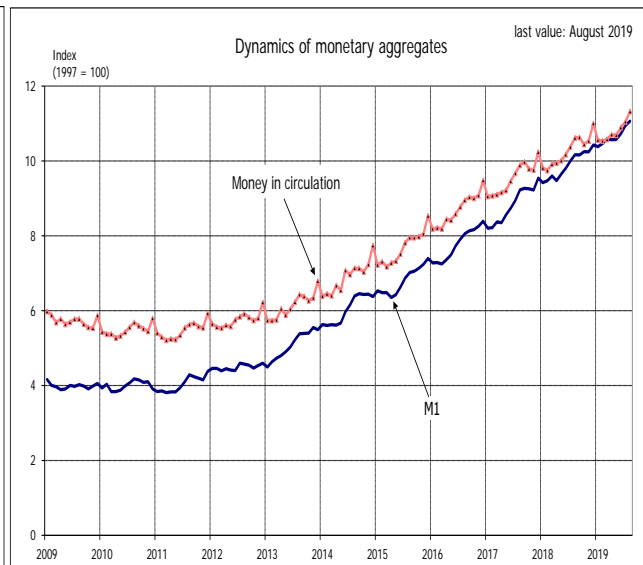
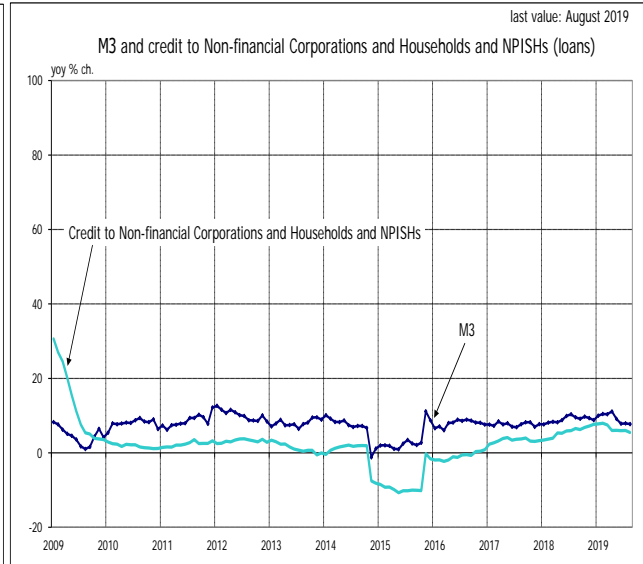
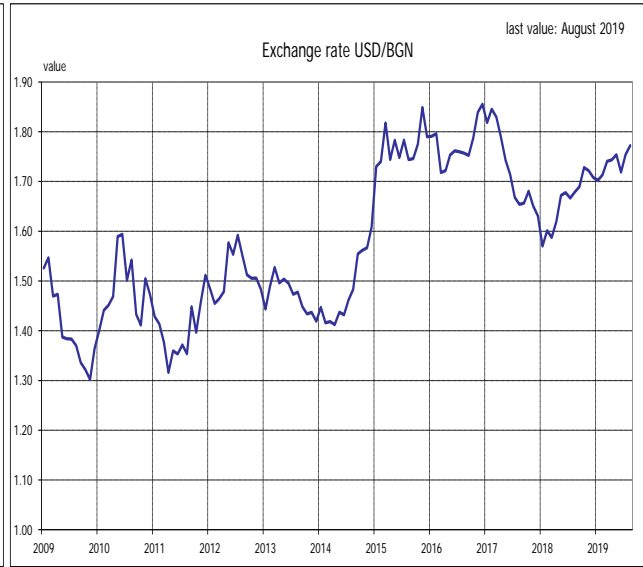
**Note:** yoy % ch. - growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year.



**6. PRICES**



**7. MONETARY AND FINANCIAL INDICATORS**



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





## Key indicators for Bulgaria - Methodological notes

№	Indicator	Note	Source
<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.	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
<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 the 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
<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. 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
<b>4. Labour market</b>			
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
<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 (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 - <a href="http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm">http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm</a> .	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 - <a href="http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm">http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm</a> .	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 - <a href="http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm">http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm</a> .	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 - <a href="http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm">http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm</a> .	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 - <a href="http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm">http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm</a> .	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 - <a href="http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm">http://www.bnb.bg/Statistics/StMethodologicalInstructions/index.htm</a> .	BNB



№	Indicator	Note	Source
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
<b>6.</b>	<b>Prices</b>		
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
<b>7.</b>	<b>Monetary and financial indicators</b>		
7.1.	M3	Growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year (monthly value: value at the end of the month).	BNB
7.2.	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
7.3.	Exchange rate USD/BGN	Period averages.	BNB