

MIGRATION

Final data

Trends in the migration development

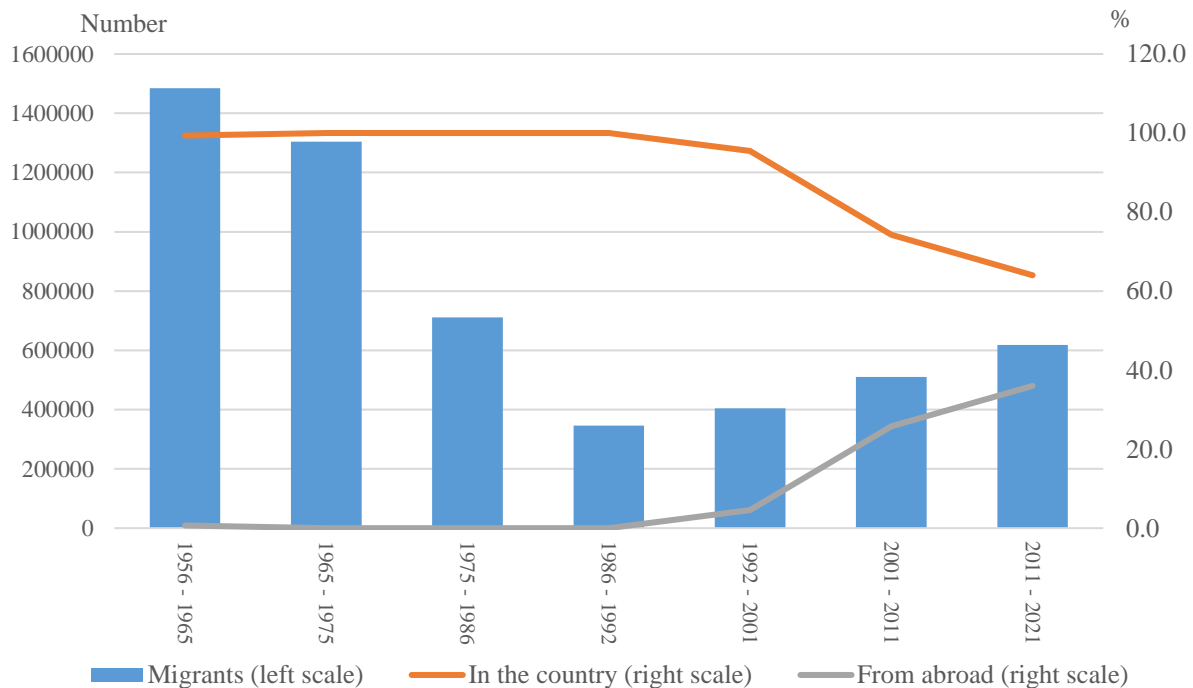
Population migration is a major factor that affects the number and structures of the population both for the country as a whole and for individual regions and territories.

Migration has been an object of observation since the first population census in the Principality of Bulgaria in 1880. Until 1946, it was registered primarily by comparing the place of birth and the place of residence of the enumerated persons. The data from the censuses conducted during this period show that the migration is mainly external in nature - emigration from the country of the population of non-Bulgarian origin and settlements of Bulgarians from territories that remained in the neighbouring countries after the wars.

From 1946 to 1985, migration was monitored by matching residences in the previous and current censuses. During this period, the movement of the population was mainly internal in nature. The main direction of migration is from the villages to the cities, which is the result of the processes of collectivization in agriculture, the industrial development of the cities and the intensified construction that took place during the period. At the end of 1965, the largest number of migrants was registered - nearly 1 500 thousand.

During the period 1986 - 2021, the census program included a question through which the last change of place of residence of persons in the period between two censuses was observed. After 1992, and in connection with the changes in the political system and the opening of the country's borders, an increase in the flow of those residing abroad and returning to the country was observed.

Fig. 1. Migrated persons by census years¹



¹ During the period 1956 - 1965, children born after December 1, 1956, were not included in the number of persons who migrated.

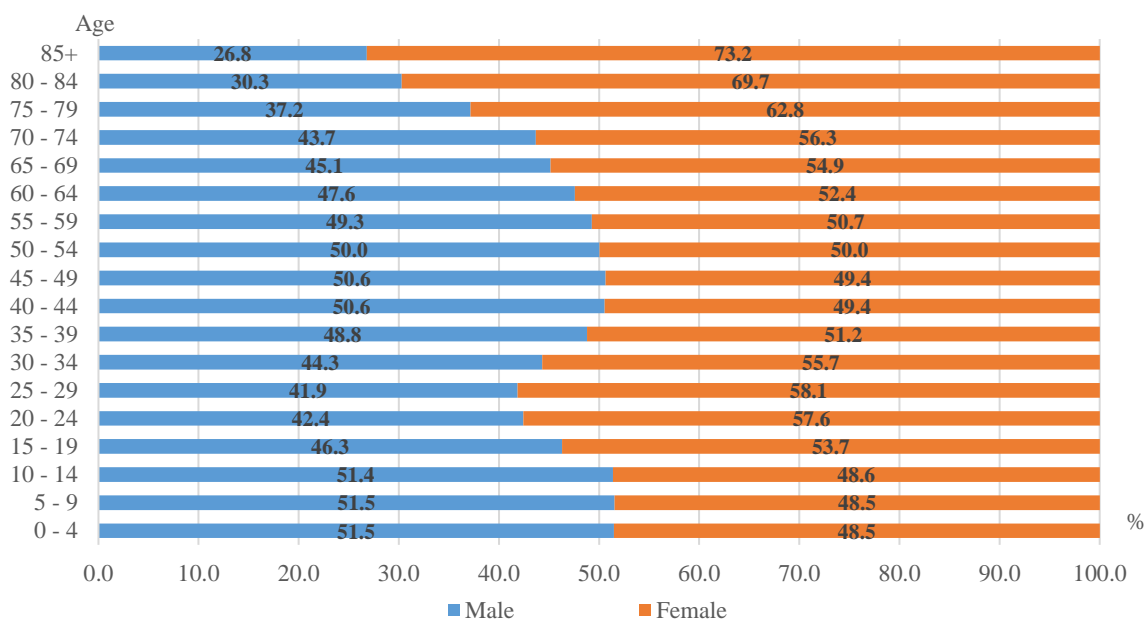
Internal migration of the population during the period 2011 - 2021

As of September 7, 2021, 395 690 persons declared that they had changed the place of their habitual residence during the period 2011 - 2021. Migrant women are 213 558, or 54.0%, and men - 182 132, or 46.0% of the migrated persons.

Persons aged 25 - 34² have the highest relative share - 26.1%, and the lowest - persons aged 80 and over - 2.8% of the migrated persons.

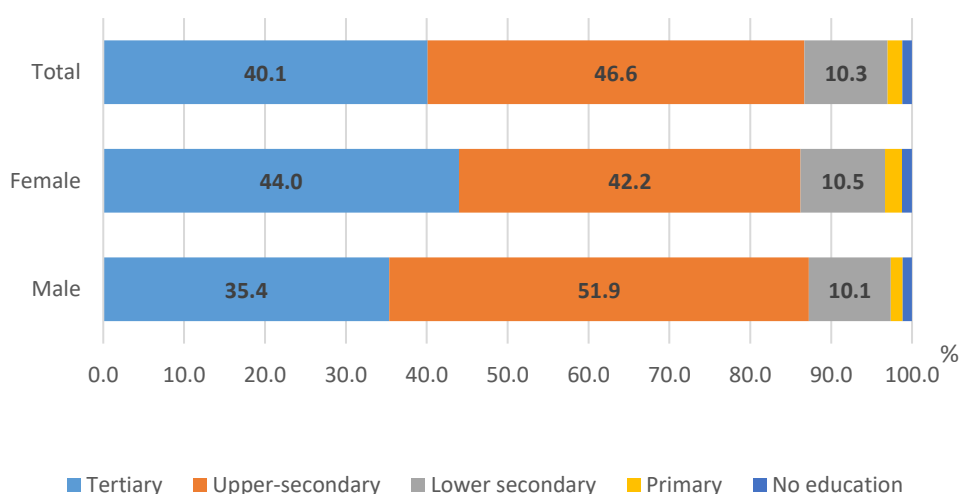
Among migrants aged 35 to 54, men predominate, while women have a higher relative share among younger age groups (up to 35 years) and among persons aged 55 and over.

Fig. 2. Age structure of the migrated persons as of September 7, 2021



As of September 7, 2021, 46.6% of persons aged 15 and over who migrated during the observed period had completed secondary education and 40.1% - had completed higher education. The share of persons without education is the lowest - 1.2% of those who migrated during the period.

Fig. 3. Migrated persons by sex and education as of September 7, 2021



² All demographic and socio-economic characteristics of persons refer to the critical moment of the census - September 7, 2021.

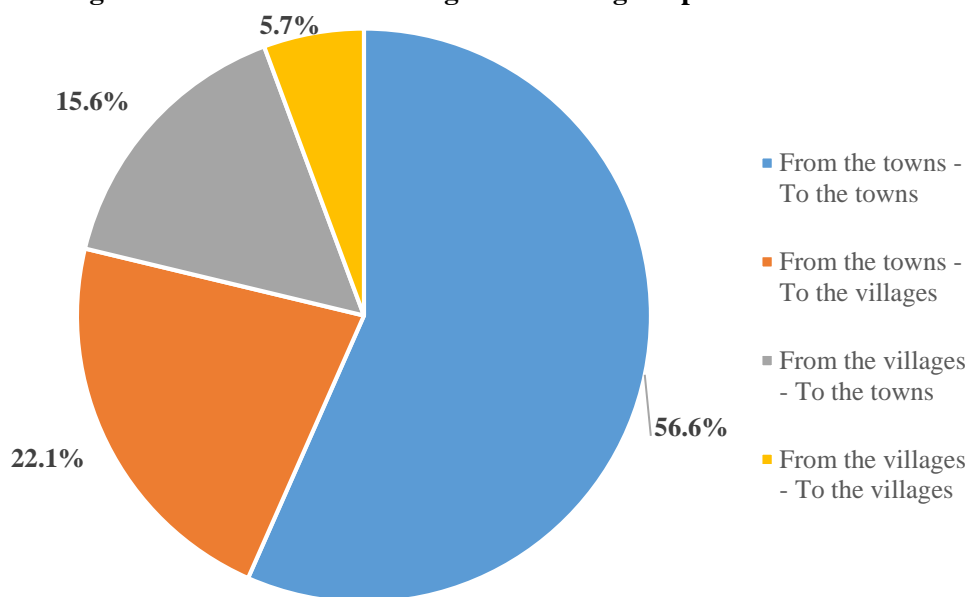
The distribution by ethnicity shows that the migration process is the most intense among the Bulgarian ethnic group - 59.8 out of every thousand people changed their usual place of residence during the observed period, followed by persons who self-identified to another ethnic group - 37.0%. The intensity of migration is the lowest among the Roma ethnic group - 24.3 per thousand people of those self-identified as this ethnic group.

Direction of internal migration in the period 2011 - 2021

There are four main directions in which the population moves, changing its place of residence within the country: 'from the cities to the cities', 'from the cities to the villages', 'from the villages to the cities' and 'from the villages to the villages'. The formation of these flows is mainly influenced by numerous socio-economic factors, the development of the regions, as well as the living conditions in individual settlements.

During the period 2011 - 2021, 224 thousand people, or 56.6% of all migrated persons, changed their place of residence from one city to another within the country. The persons who moved from the cities to the villages are 88 thousand, or 22.1%, followed by the migrants in the direction from the villages to the cities - 62 thousand, or 15.6%. The smallest is the relative share of migrants who changed their place of residence from one village to another - 22 thousand, or 5.7% of all migrated persons.

Fig. 4. Direction of internal migration during the period 2011 - 2021



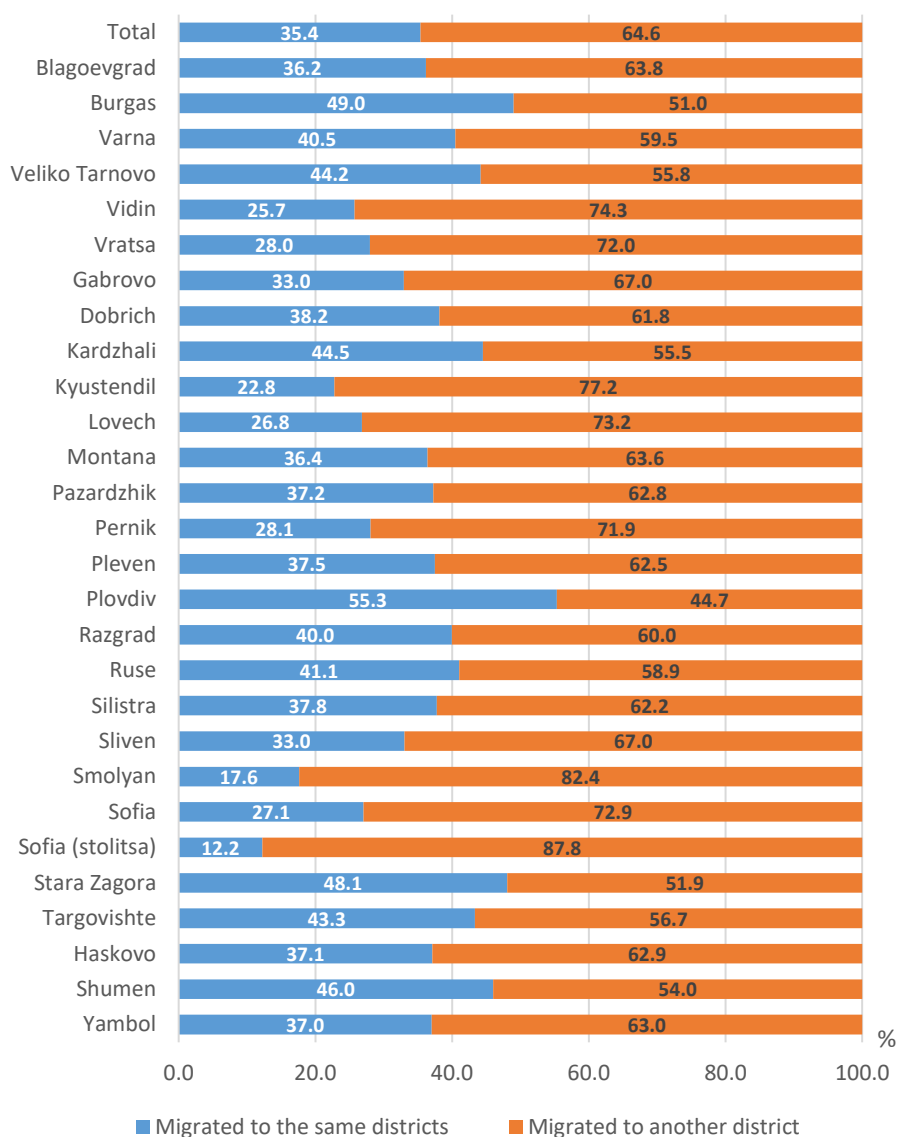
Internal migration of population between districts

During the period 2011 - 2021, 139 931 people, or 35.4% of all migrants, settled in a settlement of the same district in which they lived, with 49.0% settling in cities and the rest (51.0%) in the villages of the district.

255 759 people, or 64.6% of the migrated persons, settled in settlements outside the district where they lived. Of them, 84.9% migrated to the cities and 15.1% - to the villages of other districts.

The relative share of those who migrated outside the borders of the district in which they live is highest in the districts of Sofia (stolitsa) - 87.8%, Smolyan (82.4%) and Kyustendil (77.2%). This share is the lowest in the districts of Burgas - 51.0%, and Plovdiv - 44.7%.

Fig. 5. Structure of migration by districts and directions



Arrived/returned from abroad during the period 1980 - 2021

As of September 7, 2021, 354 138 persons declared that they resided outside the country for more than one year during the period 1980 - 2021 and returned or arrived in the country during the same period.

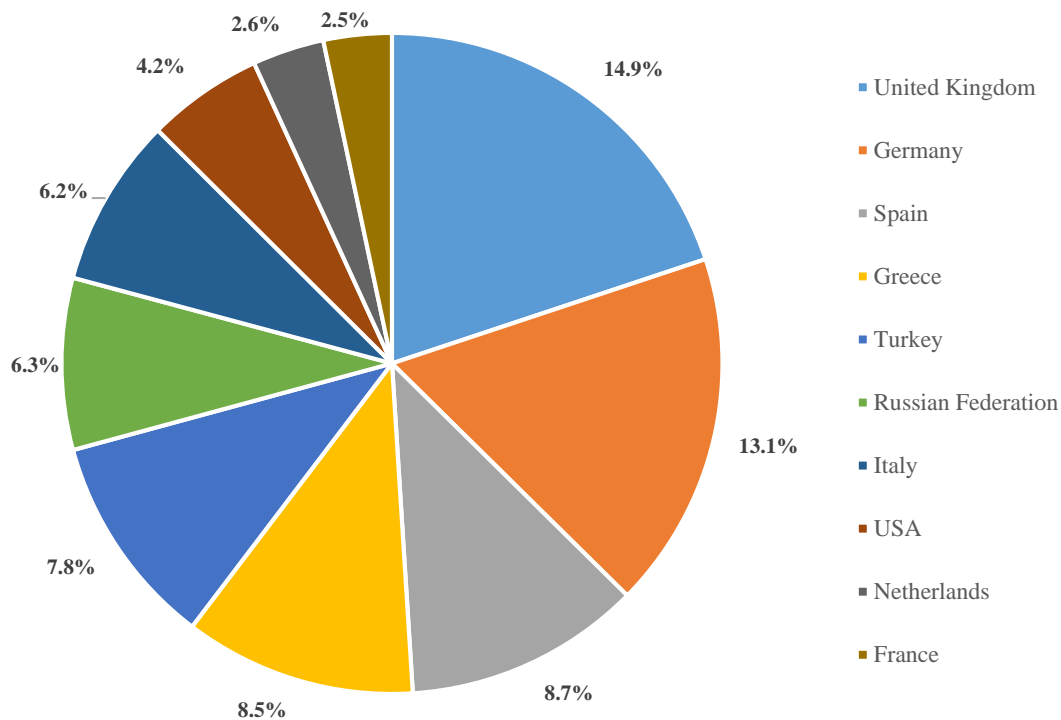
After the end of the eighties of the last century, with the change of the political system and the opening of the country's borders, there was a constant increase in the number of Bulgarians who left the country and resided abroad. Data from the latest census show that the number of returnees to the country is also increasing.

Bulgarian citizens who returned to the country during the observed period are 314 285, or 88.7% of all who indicated that they had resided abroad. Men are 164 833 (52.4%), and women - 149 452 (47.6%).

The highest share of persons aged 40 - 49 as of September 7, 2021 - 20.0%, or every fifth of those who returned to the country. The ethnic structure of the returning Bulgarian citizens is similar to the ethnic structure of the population - 84.5% of them identified themselves with the Bulgarian ethnic group, 9.6% with the Turkish and 2.3% with the Roma.

The largest number of Bulgarian citizens returned from the United Kingdom - 47 thousand, or 14.9%, followed by Germany - 41 thousand, or 13.1%, Spain - 27 thousand, or 8.7%, and Greece - 27 thousand, or 8.5% of those residing abroad. The flow of Bulgarian citizens who returned to the country in 2020 and 2021 was the largest - 49 377 people.

Fig. 6. The ten most preferred countries in which Bulgarian citizens resided in the period 1980 - 2021



Every third settled in Sofia (stolitsa) and Plovdiv districts - respectively 26.0 and 10% of all returned Bulgarian citizens. This share is the lowest for the districts of Vidin (1.1%) and Smolyan (0.9%).

Foreign citizens who arrived in the country during the observed period are 39 853 persons. Men are 15 808, or 51.3%, and women - 15 030, or 48.7%. Citizens of countries from Europe prevail - 77.4%, and from Asia - 17.8% of all foreigners arriving in the country. The highest share of foreigners settled in the districts of Sofia (stolitsa) - 33.4%, Varna - 13.8%, and Burgas - 11.5%.