

CRÈCHES IN 2023

The number of detached crèches and groups in kindergartens functioning in the country as of 31.12.2023 was 835, with 33 378 places in them (Table 1). The number of places in the country has increased by 185, or by 0.6%, compared to the previous year.

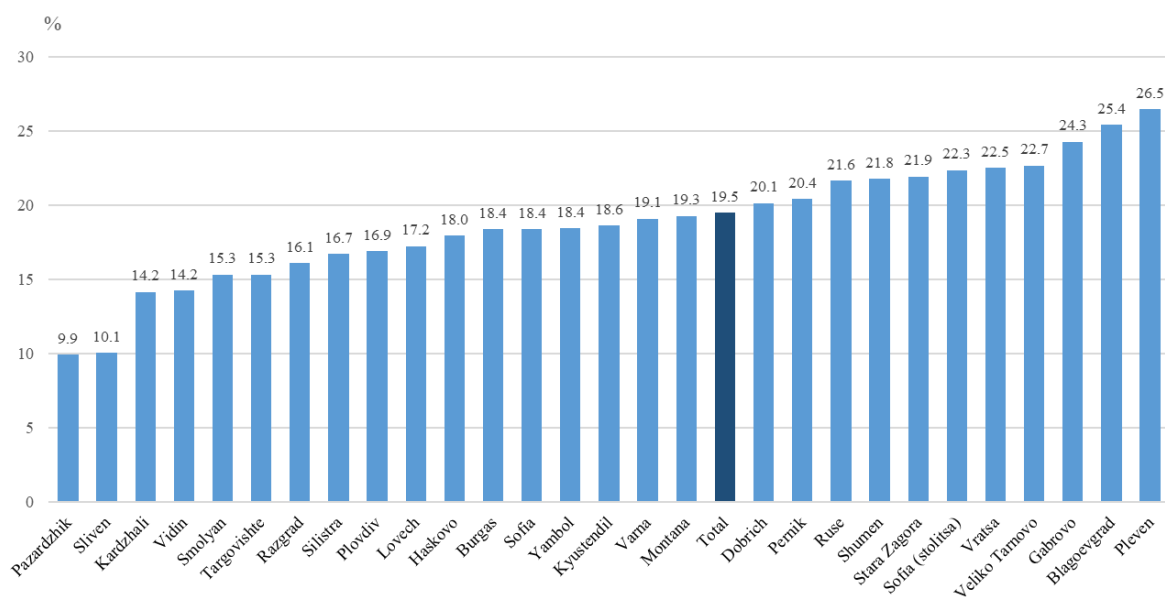
There were 726 crèches in urban areas with 31 141 places and 109 crèches with 2 237 places in rural areas, respectively. Compared to the previous year, the number of places in crèches in urban areas increased by 0.6%, and those in rural areas by 0.5%.

1. Crèches and places in crèches

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Establishments	840	835	838	833	835	835
Places - total	33226	33764	32575	32856	33193	33378
In detached crèches	14120	14846	14196	14370	14743	14795
In groups in kindergartens	19106	18918	18379	18486	18450	18583
Number of places per 100 children aged up to 3 years	17.3	17.9	17.7	18.2	19.5	19.5

As of 31.12.2023, the number of places per 100 children aged up to 3 years¹ was 19.5. The highest values were registered in districts Pleven (26.5 per 100 children), Blagoevgrad (25.4 per 100 children) and Gabrovo (24.3 per 100 children) (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Number of places in crèches per 100 children aged up to 3 years as of 31.12.2023 by district



¹ The indicator is calculated with preliminary data on the population.

30 586 children were accommodated there at the end of the year. 15 810 of them were boys, and 14 776 - girls. Compared to the last year, the number of children in crèches increased by 42, or by 0.1%.

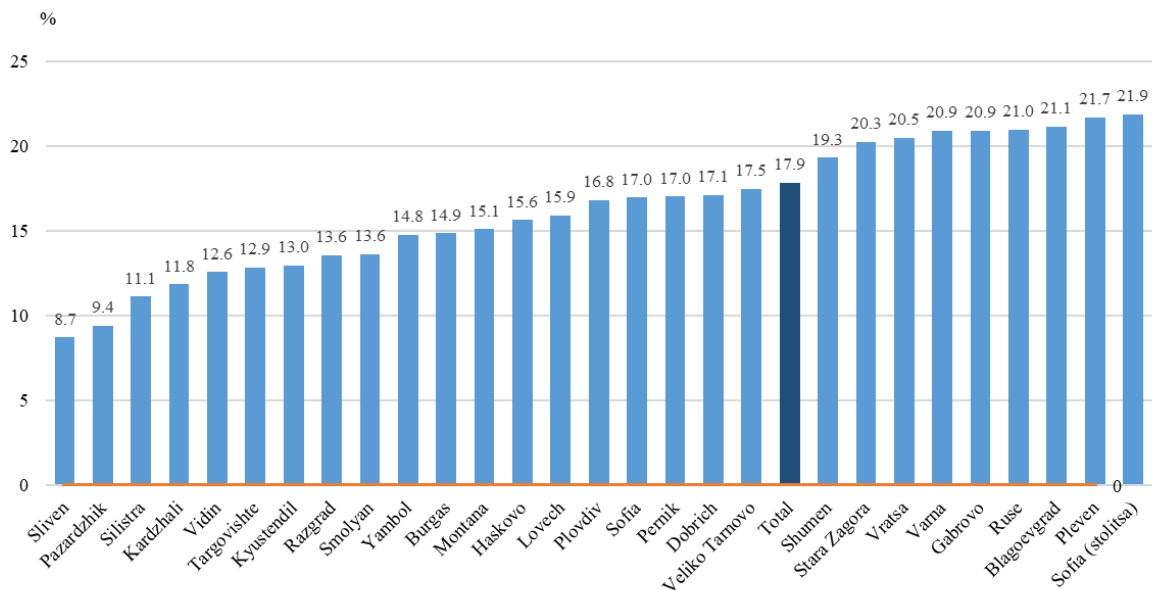
2. Children in crèches

(Number)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Entrants during the years	29449	30241	25715	27953	29080	29075
Children as of 31.12.	31939	32185	29238	29724	30544	30586
Boys	16449	16677	15169	15347	15857	15810
Girls	15490	15508	14069	14377	14687	14776

The coverage^{2,3} of children brought up in crèches at the end of 2023 was 17.9%. The highest was the indicator for the districts of Sofia (stolitsa) (21.9%), Pleven (21.7%) and Blagoevgrad (21.1%) (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Coverage of children brought up in crèches per 100 children aged up to 3 years as of 31.12.2023 by district



² The indicator was expressed by the ratio of the number of children aged up to 3 years brought up in detached crèches and groups in kindergartens per 100 children of the same age group in the total population.

³ The indicator is calculated with preliminary data on the population.



The distribution of children raised in crèches by age remains unchanged in 2023. The highest was the share of children aged 2 years - 81.1%, and the smallest was the share of children aged up to 1 year - 0.04%.

7 970 medical and non-medical specialists worked on a basic labour contract in crèches at the end of 2023 in order to raise, educate and train the children. The number of medical specialists in health care was 3 607, as 92.0% of them were nurses (Table 3).

3. Medical specialists in health care and non-medical personnel in crèches as of 31.12.

(Number)

Year	Medical specialists in health care			Other non-medical personnel
	Total	Of which:		
		Nurses	Midwives	
2018	3787	3557	140	4002
2019	3658	3408	160	4060
2020	3668	3433	158	4008
2021	3651	3403	181	4113
2022	3675	3434	183	4262
2023	3607	3317	193	4357



Methodological notes

The survey ‘Crèches’ is an exhaustive survey carried out by the National Statistical Institute annually. Detached crèches as well as groups in kindergartens are covered.

The sources of data are detached crèches and groups in kindergartens. Data on personnel, places in crèches and the number of children, as well as their distribution by age, are collected.

Crèches are set up to support families in raising children up to the age of three years and to ensure their normal physical and mental development in accordance with the Law on Health and Ordinance No. 26/18.11.2008 of the Minister of Health. Crèches are organizationally distinct structures, where medical and other specialists raise, educate and train children aged from three months to three years.

Groups for children aged between 3 months and 3 years could be opened at daily and weekly kindergartens as the organization of work there does not differ from the work of detached crèches.

Additional statistical information and data from the Survey on crèches are available in IS Infostat (https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat/pages/module.jsf?x_2=60) as well as on the NSI’s website (www.nsi.bg), section ‘Health’.