

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2021 (FLASH ESTIMATES)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fall down by 1.8% in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter of the previous year while raises with 2.5% compared to the fourth quarter of 2020 according to the seasonally adjusted data.

The Eurostat Handbook on quarterly National Accounts defines the flash estimates as:

„...the earliest picture of the economy according to national accounts concepts, which is produced and published as soon as possible after the end of the quarter, using a more incomplete set of information than that used for traditional quarterly accounts...”

Flash estimates for GDP in the context of general conditions for the preparation of short-term indicators are based on preliminary short-term information (subject to subsequent update and revisions) expert assessments and models for the components of GDP structure, for which direct basic information at the time of calculation is not available.

Flash estimates of GDP for the first quarter of 2021 were prepared 47 days after the reference period. They are presented in a standard format for publication of quarterly national accounts data - current prices, relative shares of the components in the GDP structure and growth rates as compared to the previous quarter and compared to the same period of the previous year.

According to the Release Calendar NSI will prepare and publish preliminary quarterly estimates of GDP for the first quarter of 2021 on June 8th 2021.

GDP in monetary terms, current prices

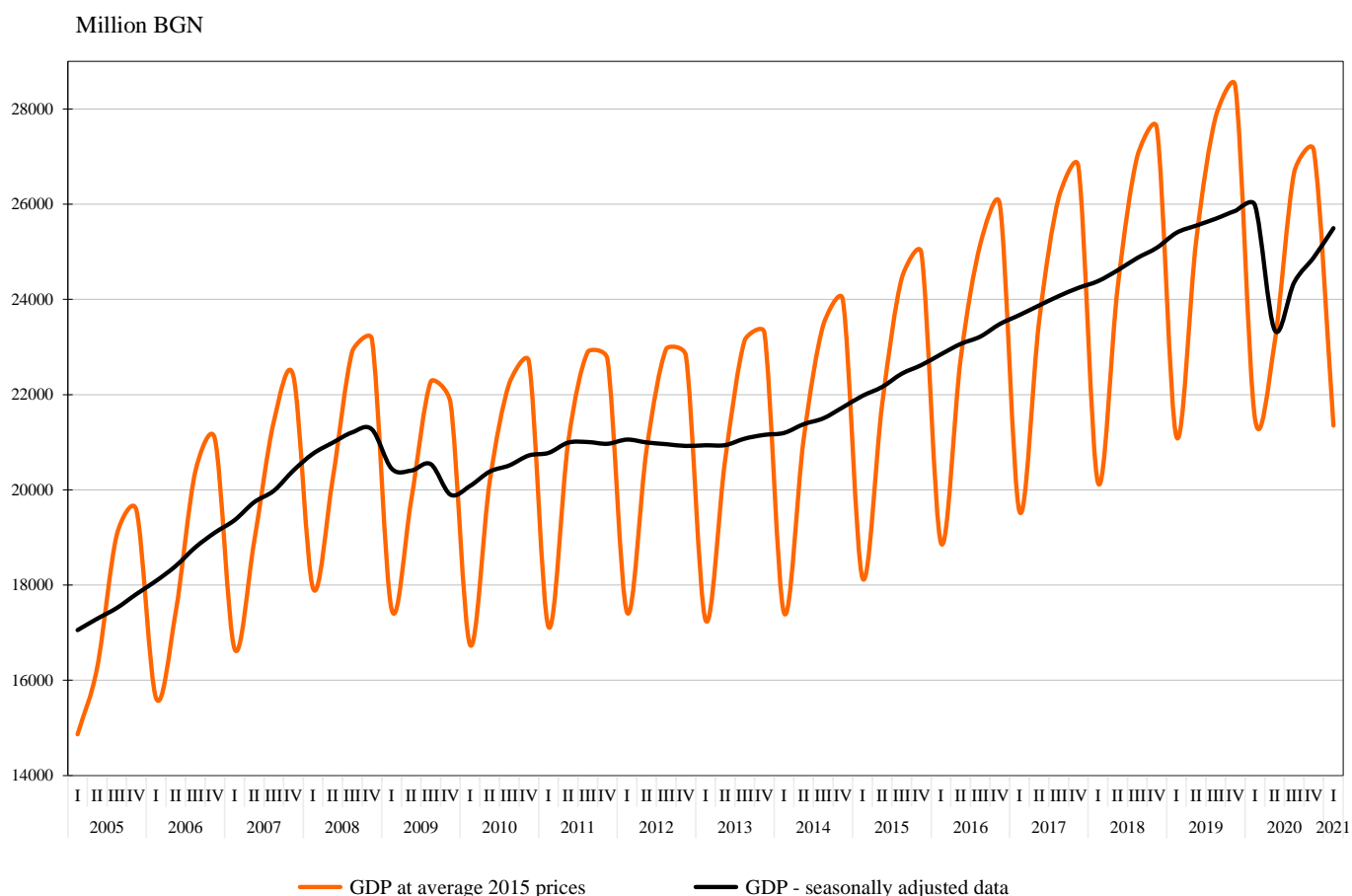
According to the flash GDP estimates for the first quarter of 2021, the GDP at current prices is 26 436.5 million BGN ([Annex](#), Table 1).

Gross Value Added in the first quarter of 2021 amounted to 22 665.1 million BGN.

In the structure of GDP by the expenditure approach the largest share of 84.8% has the final consumption, which in nominal terms is 22 393.3 million BGN. In the first quarter of 2021 gross capital formation is 4 108.7 million BGN and has a share of 15.5% in GDP. The external balance (exports minus imports) has a negative sign.

Growth rate of GDP, total and by components

Figure 1. GDP by quarters for the period 2005 - 2021, at average 2015 prices



Quarter-on-quarter growth rates

According to the seasonally adjusted data¹, GDP has a growth of 2.5% in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the previous quarter (Annex, Table 2). GVA increase in the first quarter of 2021 is 2.7%.

According to the flash estimate of GDP by final expenditure approach, the reason for the positive GDP growth at seasonally adjusted data in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the fourth quarter of 2020 is the increase of the Exports of goods and services with 6.5% and the increase of the final consumption with 1.6%.

¹ Seasonal adjustment of statistical indicators in the NSI is organized in accordance with [ESS Guidelines on Seasonal Adjustment](#). The seasonal adjustment of GDP data is made with the TRAMO/SEATS algorithm applied. The set of variables for seasonal adjustment covers gross value added, gross domestic product and its components from the expenditure side.

Growth rates on annual basis

GDP at seasonally adjusted data for the first quarter of 2021 decreased by 1.8% compared to the same quarter of the previous year. Gross value added decreased by 1.6%.

As regards the expenditure components of GDP, the final consumption registered economic growth of 2.6%. Gross fixed capital formation increased by 1.2% in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter of the previous year at seasonally adjusted data. Exports of goods and services decreased by 6.0% while imports of goods and services increased by 0.6%.

Annex

Table 1

Gross Domestic Product, First Quarter of 2021¹
(Flash estimates)

		First quarter of 2021	
		Value at current prices - Million BGN	Relative share in GDP - %
1	Gross Value Added	22665.1	85.7
2	Adjustments	3771.4	14.3
3	Gross Domestic Product (1 + 2 = 4 + 5 + 6)	26436.5	100.0
	by final use components:		
4	Final consumption	22393.3	84.8
5	Gross capital formation	4108.7	15.5
6	Balance (exports - imports)	-65.5	-0.3
7	Exports of goods and services	17926.0	67.8
8	Imports of goods and services	17991.5	68.1

¹ Seasonally unadjusted data.

Table 2

Growth rates of GDP component¹
(Flash estimates)

(Per cent)

		Growth rate, current quarter compared with the previous quarter				Growth rate, current quarter compared with the same quarter of the previous year			
		II 2020	III 2020	IV 2020	I 2021	II 2020	III 2020	IV 2020	I 2021
1	Gross Value Added	-9.0	3.9	1.4	2.7	-7.8	-4.6	-3.9	-1.6
2	Adjustments	-5.3	2.6	0.0	-0.1	-8.7	-6.3	-4.6	-3.0
3	Gross Domestic Product	-10.1	4.3	2.2	2.5	-8.6	-5.2	-3.8	-1.8
	by final use components:								
4	Final consumption	-1.0	3.2	-1.2	1.6	-0.3	2.7	0.9	2.6
5	Gross capital formation	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Gross fixed capital formation	-2.5	3.5	-0.1	0.3	-10.9	-6.4	-7.4	1.2
6	Balance (exports - imports)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
7	Exports of goods and services	-22.2	2.0	11.2	6.5	-18.4	-20.8	-11.2	-6.0
8	Imports of goods and services	-21.3	20.8	4.4	1.4	-19.7	-4.3	-0.8	0.6

¹ The growth rate is calculated by using chain-linked estimates of the GDP components based on average 2015 prices.