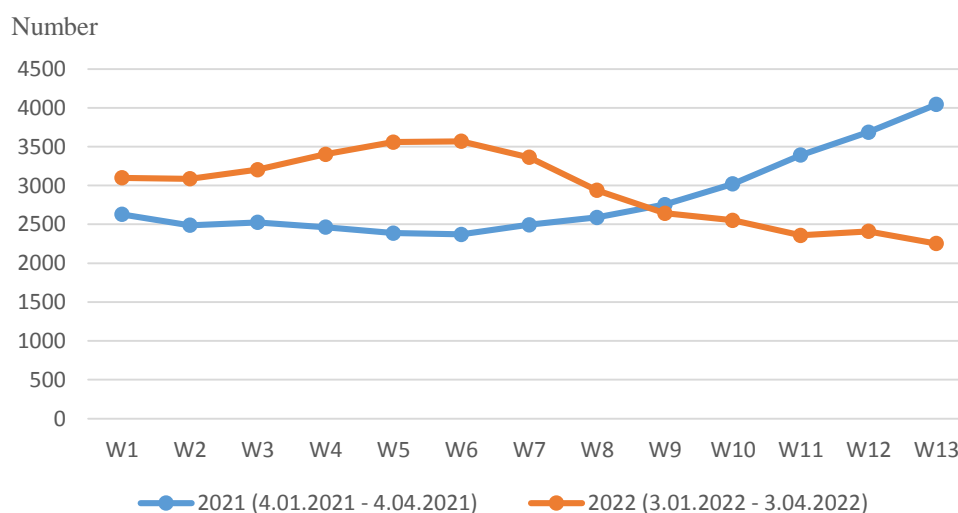


DEATHS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2022 (PRELIMINARY DATA)

The number of deaths in the first quarter of 2022 (1st - 13th week) is **38 434** and the crude mortality rate¹ - **22.6%**. Mortality among males (24.5‰) is higher than among females (20.8‰). Compared to the same period of the previous year, the number of deaths has increased by 1 590, or by 4.3%.

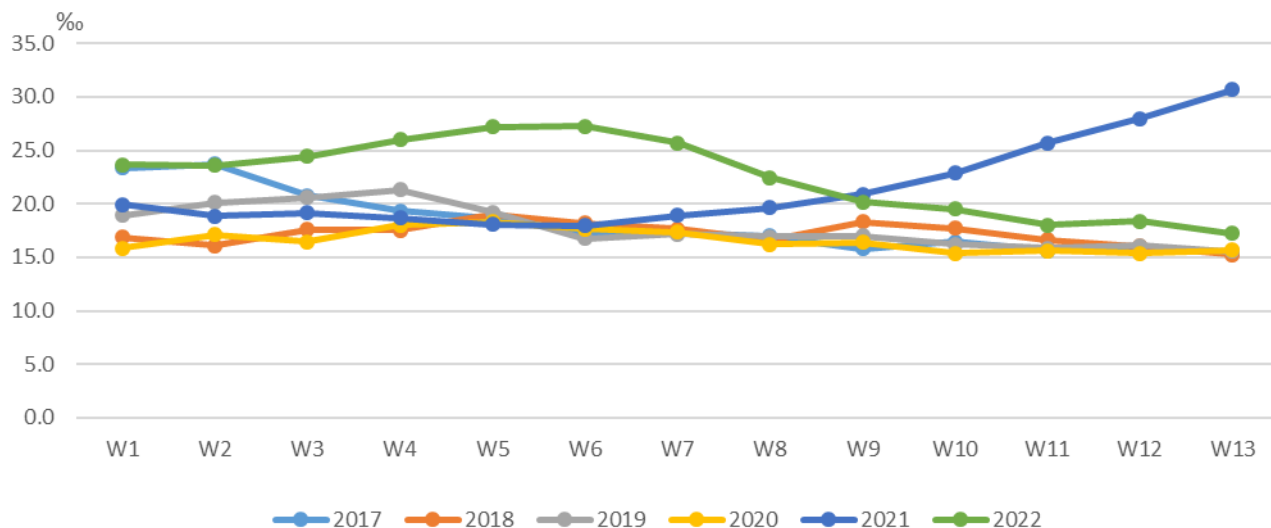
Figure 1. Deaths in Bulgaria by weeks in 2021 and 2022 (1st - 13th week)



The highest mortality in the first quarter of 2022 was registered in the 6th week (February 7 - February 13) - 3 569, or 27.3 per 1 000 people, of the average annual population. The lowest number of deaths in the first quarter of 2022 was in the 13th week - 2 254 people, or 17.2‰.

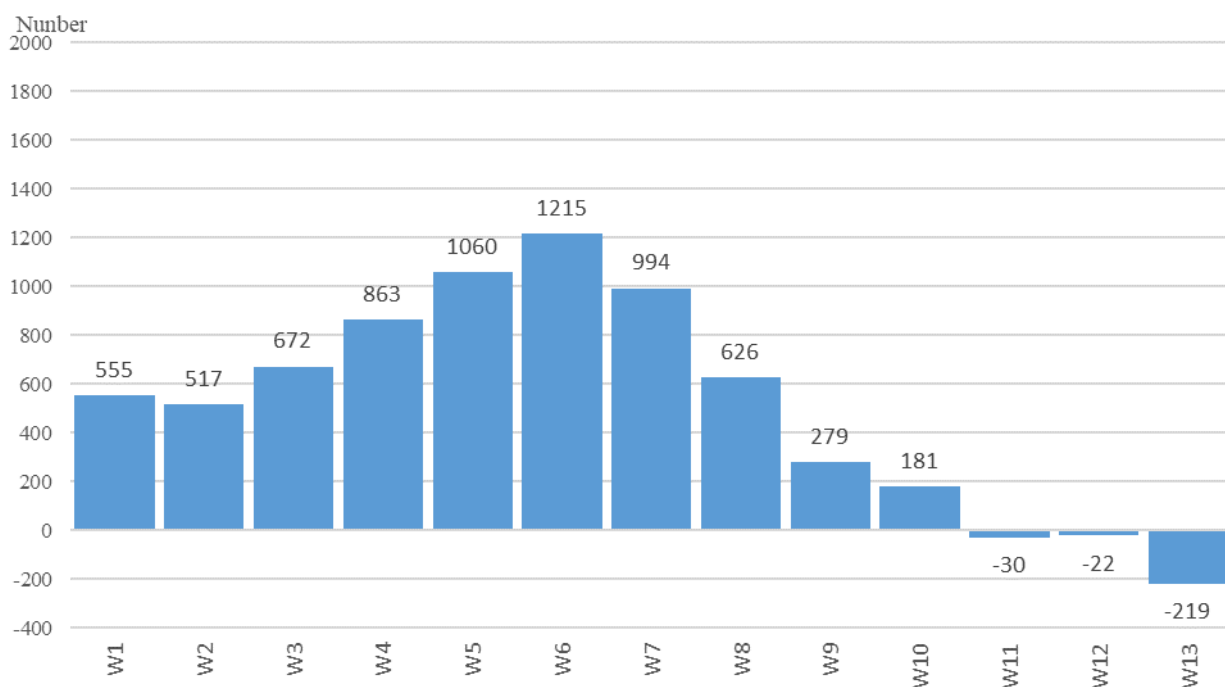
¹ Represents the ratio of the number of deaths during the respective period (quarter) to the average annual population multiplied by 365 and divided by the number of days during the same period.

Figure 2. Weekly crude mortality rates in the period 2017 - 2022



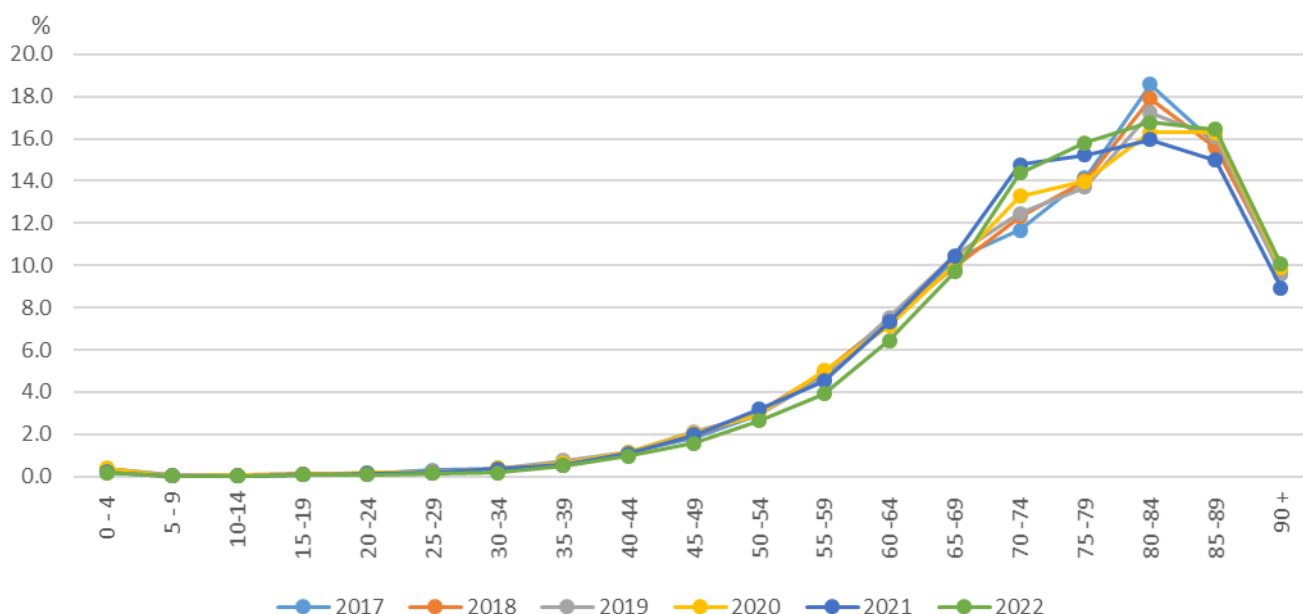
The highest positive number of deaths in the first quarter of 2022 compared to the average deaths for the period 2017 - 2021 is 1 215 cases in the 6th week, or mortality increased by 51.6% compared to the base period (2017 - 2021).

Figure 3. Change of the deaths by weeks in 2022 compared to the average deaths in the period 2017 - 2021



In the first quarter of the period 2017 - 2022, the age distribution of the deaths remains relatively the same in the age groups. There is a slight decrease in the relative share of deaths in the age group from 30 to 69 years and a slight increase in the age group from 75 to 79 years.

Figure 4. Share of deaths by age in the fourth quarter in the period 2017 - 2022



In twenty-one districts, there is an increase in the absolute number of deaths in the first quarter of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. The highest growth is in the districts of Gabrovo (17.1%), Yambol (16.0%), Blagoevgrad (14.5%), Lovech (12.3%) and Ruse (12.0%). There is a decrease in the number of dead persons in the remaining seven districts. The highest is the decrease in Shumen (-9.1%), Pleven (-6.3%), Kyustendil (-5.1%), Vratsa (-3.6%) and Sofia (stolitsa) (-3.0%).



1. Deaths in the first quarter of 2021 and 2022 by districts

Districts	2021 (number)	2022 (number)	Deaths growth (number)	Deaths growth (%)
Total	36844	38434	1590	4.3
Blagoevgrad	1349	1545	196	14.5
Burgas	2019	2186	167	8.3
Varna	2073	2283	210	10.1
Veliko Tarnovo	1339	1445	106	7.9
Vidin	593	643	50	8.4
Vratsa	1153	1112	-41	-3.6
Gabrovo	671	786	115	17.1
Dobrich	948	955	7	0.7
Kardzhali	741	720	-21	-2.8
Kyustendil	902	856	-46	-5.1
Lovech	783	879	96	12.3
Montana	887	916	29	3.3
Pazardzhik	1413	1409	-4	-0.3
Pernik	839	858	19	2.3
Pleven	1678	1572	-106	-6.3
Plovdiv	3199	3555	356	11.1
Razgrad	614	647	33	5.4
Ruse	1240	1389	149	12.0
Silistra	706	710	4	0.6
Sliven	969	992	23	2.4
Smolyan	585	633	48	8.2
Sofia (stolitsa)	5396	5235	-161	-3.0
Sofia	1472	1531	59	4.0
Stara Zagora	1751	1875	124	7.1
Targovishte	550	609	59	10.7
Haskovo	1325	1428	103	7.8
Shumen	987	897	-90	-9.1
Yambol	662	768	106	16.0



Methodological notes

Coverage

The total number of deaths includes all people whose usual place of residence (current address) is in the Republic of Bulgaria, regardless of their place of death.

Definition

Death means the termination of all vital functions without the possibility to be recovered.

Geographical scope (territory)

Data on deaths are distributed in regional aspects (settlements, municipalities, districts and statistical regions) in accordance with the administrative-territorial division of the country as of 31.12. of the respective year by persons' current address.

Data source

The source of data on deaths is the Unified System for Civil Registration and Administrative Services (ESGRAON). Deaths are registered through a common USCRASP-CDS "Death notification". Based on it and not later than 48 hours after the death, the Death Act is created. Electronic death certificates are sent monthly (from April 2020 - weekly) by DG GRAO at the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works to the NSI. The data are processed, edited and validated through the Information System Demography in accordance with the rules set in the system for validation and control in the processing of demographic events. This ensures full coverage of death events for Bulgaria in one calendar year in accordance with the definitions and requirements of Regulation (EU) № 1260/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European demographic statistics.

Main indicators

Crude mortality rate (‰)

Represents the ratio of the number of deaths during the year to the average annual population of that year expressed per 1 000 inhabitants.

Total mortality rate for parts of the year (‰)

Represents the ratio of the number of deaths during the respective period (weeks, months, quarters) to the average annual population multiplied by 365 and divided by the number of days during the same period.

Change of the death (Excess mortality)

Change in the number of deaths in the reporting year compared to the average number of deaths for the previous 5 years is calculated as an absolute difference between the number of deaths in a given week of the reporting year and the average number of deaths for the corresponding week of the 5-year period before the reporting year.