

The National Statistical Institute submits to the attention of national and foreign users of statistical information the 69<sup>th</sup> edition of the 'Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Bulgaria', which will be presented on CD-ROM too. It provides topical statistical information on demographic, economic and social development of the country for the period 1996 – 2000 in different territorial and classificational aggregations and breakdowns.

The presented information is obtained from NSI and other ministries and institutions, being Bodies of Statistics, such as: the Ministry of Finance, Bulgarian National Bank, National Security Institute, Employment Agency at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Interior, National Center for Health Information at the Ministry of Health and others.

The statistical information, found in the yearbook, presents the country as a whole and it is given at a regional level too, according to the administrative – territorial division of Bulgaria. Data are published at a 'planning regions' level and where it is possible – by districts. The districts correspond to level 3, while the planning regions – to level 2 of the Statistical Classification of the Territorial Units NUTS.

The yearbook is designed thematically by chapters and to each chapter there is an introductory text with methodological notes. It is specified to the methodological notes of the relevant categories of data that the respective metadata are included in the International Monetary Fund General Data Dissemination System (IMF GDDS) to which Bulgaria has jointed since May 2000.

Value indicators for 1999 and 2000 have been published in Levs (BGN) after the denomination in 1999.

Data included in the 'International Review' section provide a possibility for making comparisons between Bulgaria and other countries as well. The published information is the recent one at disposal of NSI at the time of preparation of the edition. Some results of the European Comparisons Programme (ECP) on the Purchasing Power Parities (PPP), round 1999 are given in the 'International Comparisons' chapter.

Revised data on the annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Bulgaria are presented for the period 1996 – 2000 in a separate supplement, attached to the edition.

Tables related to the economic units enlisted in the BULSTAT Register (concerning the country as a whole and at a regional level) as of 31 December 2000 are given in another supplement.

The National Statistical Institute expresses sincere thanks to all persons and institutions who have contributed to the elaboration of the 'Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Bulgaria, 2001'. Looking forward to recommendations and proposals by national and foreign users, which might facilitate the improvement of the edition in the future.

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