

BULGARIA

POPULATION: 6,951,482

GDP – 2019 - 60.7 billion EUR. 8,678 EUR per capita.

VAT – 20%

VAT 9% for hotels; special anticrisis VAT 9% for the period 01.07.2020 – 31.12.2021 – 9% for paper books, restaurants, baby food & diapers

BUSINESS CLIMATE : A3

CORPORATE TAX - 10%

DIVIDEND TAX - 5%

HEALTH SYSTEM

Bulgaria has a compulsory social health insurance (SHI) scheme, with a small role for Voluntary Health Insurance (VHI). The Ministry of Health is responsible for regulating and coordinating the health system as well as for licensing a dense network of health care providers, including hospitals. Within the SHI, the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and its regional branches are the core purchasers of health services. In July 2019, the Minister of Health proposed a reform of SHI to allow private insurers to compete with the NHIF in offering the public benefit package but such a change is still in the early stages of discussion. Notably, the past few years have been marked by challenges to policy implementation and the rising influence of the national courts in this area. Health spending has increased significantly but is still among the lowest in the EU. In 2017, Bulgaria spent EUR 1 311 per capita (adjusted for differences in purchasing power) on health, which is the fourth lowest in the EU. Health spending per person more than doubled between 2005 and 2017, with an annual average growth rate of 5.3 % since 2009, outpacing the growth rate of every other EU Member State except Romania. In recent years, there has been a steady increase in health care expenditure. The share of money for health is growing from 3.1% of GDP in 1998 to 4.5% of GDP according to the report for 2019. However, the co-payment in Bulgaria is very high and satisfaction is low.

As of December 31, 2019, the population of Bulgaria has decreased by 48,557 people (0.7%) compared to the previous year and amounts to 6,951,482 people. Of the country's population 5,125,407 people, or 73.7%, live in cities, and 1,826,075 people, or 26.3% - in villages. The majority of the total population is women - 51.5%, or to 1,000 men there are 1,063 women. The number of men predominates up to the age of 53, and after this age the number of women exceeds that of men.

The process of demographic aging of the population continues. At the end of 2019, the relative share of people over the age of 65 was 21.6%, while the relative share of the young population aged 0 to 17 was 17.1%.

The aging process is more pronounced among women than among men, due to higher mortality among men and, as a result, lower life expectancy among them.

In 2019, there is an increase in the incidence of some infectious diseases - measles, chickenpox, mumps, meningococcal meningitis and sepsis, viral hepatitis, viral meningitis and meningoencephalitis. Eight cases of malaria imported from abroad have been reported. The incidence of pertussis, Q fever, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, dysentery, leptospirosis and Lyme

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BULGARIAN HEALTHCARE STRUCTURE AND NUMBERS FOR 2019

borreliosis is decreasing. The incidence of active tuberculosis in 2019 is 18.5 %. Among children under 17 years of age is 5.7 % and is lower than the previous year.

In 2019, the frequency of new cases of malignant neoplasms increased compared to the previous year and was 434.9% of the population. There are no significant changes in the nosological structure of these diseases. The incidence of malignant neoplasms is high in: the mammary gland in women; the prostate; the skin; trachea, bronchi and lungs; colon; the body of the uterus; cervix; rectosigmoid junction, rectum, anus and anal canal, etc.

The incidence of malignant neoplasms in children under 17 is 5.0%, with the highest incidence of malignant diseases of lymphatic, hematopoietic and related tissues - 2.6%.

At the end of 2019, the number of patients under the supervision of psychiatric institutions, wards, offices and outpatient clinics was 116,851.

The hospitalized cases (discharged and dead) in the medical institutions in 2019 are 2 412 523, or 34 584.4 per hundred thousand people. Of these, 416,713 (17.3%) cases are due to factors influencing the health status of the population and contact with health services. In the structure of hospitalized cases by classes of diseases leading in 2019 occupy diseases of the circulatory system, respiratory system, digestive system, neoplasms, diseases of the urogenital system, trauma, poisoning and some other consequences of the impact of external causes, diseases of musculoskeletal and connective tissue, pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period.

Among people aged 18-64, the largest among the classes of diseases is the share of hospitalized cases due to diseases of the digestive system, diseases of the circulatory system, pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period, diseases of the urogenital system, neoplasms, bone diseases - muscular system and connective tissue.

Leading diseases in the structure of hospitalized cases by classes of diseases over 65 years of age are diseases of: circulatory system, digestive system, neoplasms and respiratory system.

The most common reason for permanently reduced working capacity are diseases of the circulatory system - 32.4%, followed by neoplasms (24.9%), diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue (11.1%), diseases of the endocrine system, eating and metabolic disorders (5.9%), etc.

As of December 31, 2019, there are 319 hospitals in the country (public and private) with 51,776 beds. Of these, 184 are multidisciplinary hospitals with 38,249 beds. The specialized hospitals are 135. Of them for active treatment are 74, for long-term treatment - 1, for long-term treatment and rehabilitation - 16, and the specialized hospitals for rehabilitation are 32. The total number of beds in the specialized hospitals is 13 527. 4,482 of them are in hospitals for active treatment, and 4,777 - in hospitals for rehabilitation. There is no change in the number of psychiatric hospitals - 12, and the beds they have are 2,117.

As of December 31, 2019, the centers for skin and venereal diseases are 3 with 30 beds, the mental health centers - 12 with 1,022 beds, and the complex oncology centers - 7 with 1,169 beds. The number of mental health centers and complex oncology centers is the same as in the previous year. As of 31.12.2019 the number of medical facilities for outpatient care is 2,079. Of these, the largest is the number of medical-diagnostic and medical-technical laboratories - 1,128. Followed by medical centers - 738, diagnostic-consulting centers - 111, the dental centers - 55, and the medical-dental centers - 47.

Regardless of their status as outpatient facilities by law, they have the right to open beds for observation and treatment for up to 48 hours. The total number of beds in these medical institutions on 31.12.2019 is 1 223. The number of beds in hospitals as of 31.12.2019 is 51 776. The provision of

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10,000 people in the population with beds in hospitals is 74.5. The highest is the provision with beds for active treatment - 52.0 per ten thousand people. Of these, the highest is the provision of therapeutic beds - 24.2. The provision with surgical beds is 13.9 per ten thousand people, with pediatric - 6.4, with obstetric and gynecological - 4.7, with intensive - 2.7.

The highest provision with therapeutic beds for is those for nervous diseases - 4.5 per ten thousand people, and cardiology - 4.1 per ten thousand people, and from the surgical beds the highest is the provision with beds for surgery - 4.8, and orthopedics and traumatology - 2.8. The provision with beds for rehabilitation is 9.8 per ten thousand people, with psychiatric beds - 4.3, and with beds for long-term care - 2.7. The provision of places for short stays is 2.2 per ten thousand people.

As of December 31, 2019, the number of doctors is 29,612. The highest provision of the population with general practitioners is 5.9 per ten thousand people. They are followed by cardiologists - 2.6, obstetricians - 2.5, doctors of anesthesiology and intensive care - 2.4, surgeons - 2.2, doctors of nervous diseases - 2.1, doctors of emergency medicine - 1.8 per ten thousand people, etc. The total indicator of provision with doctors is 42.6 per ten thousand people.

In 2019, the number of patients admitted to hospitals is 2,292,167, or 32.9 per 100 people.

By types of medical facilities, the frequency of hospitalizations in the multidisciplinary hospitals is the highest - 17.4, including the multidisciplinary hospitals for active treatment - 17.3%. They are followed by private hospitals - 10.6%, specialized hospitals - 3.6%, of which 1.9% in specialized hospitals for active treatment, 1.4% - in rehabilitation hospitals.

In 2019, there were 9,863 dialysis patients, 74.7% of whom had chronic renal failure.

Hospitals	Number	Beds
<i>Healthcare facilities</i>	341	53 997
<i>Hospitals</i>	319	51 776
<i>Including :</i>		
<i>Multidisciplinary hospitals</i>	184	38 249
<i>Specialized hospitals</i>	135	13 527
<i>Centers for skin and venereal diseases</i>	3	30
<i>Complex oncology centers</i>	7	1 169
<i>Mental health centers</i>	12	1 022
<i>Medical institutions for outpatient care</i>	2 079	1 223
<i>Diagnostic and consulting centers</i>	111	299
<i>Medical centers</i>	738	844
<i>Dental centers</i>	55	9
<i>Medical and dental centers</i>	47	71
<i>Independent medical-diagnostic and medical-technical laboratories</i>	1 128	-
<i>Other medical and health facilities</i>	144	1 914
<i>Including :</i>		
<i>Emergency medical care centers</i>	27	-
<i>Hospices</i>	44	1 103
<i>Medical and social care homes for children</i>	13	809
<i>National centers without beds</i>	4	-
<i>Regional health inspections</i>	28	-

Source : www.nsi.bg

PREVALENCE OF CHRONIC DISEASES BY SEX

	(%)		
	Total	Men	Women
<i>Osteoarthritis</i>	5,8	3,3	8,1
<i>Injuries affecting the lower back or other chronic back disorders</i>	10,4	8,9	11,7
<i>Neck injuries or other chronic neck disorders</i>	4,3	2,8	5,7
<i>Asthma (including allergic asthma)</i>	2,2	1,9	2,6
<i>Chronic respiratory diseases (excluding asthma)</i>	3,2	2,9	3,4
<i>Myocardial heart attack or chronic consequences of a heart attack</i>	1,6	1,8	1,4
<i>Ischemic heart disease or angina pectoris</i>	7,0	5,8	8,1
<i>High blood pressure (hypertension)</i>	29,7	26,5	32,8
<i>Stroke (cerebral hemorrhage, thrombosis) or chronic consequences of a stroke</i>	2,5	2,5	2,5
<i>Cirrhosis of the liver</i>	(0.4) ^u
<i>Problems with bladder control</i>	2,6	2,7	2,4
<i>Kidney problems</i>	4,7	4,3	5,1
<i>Diabetes</i>	6,9	6,5	7,3
<i>Allergic diseases (excluding allergic asthma)</i>	3,9	2,4	5,4
<i>Chronic depression</i>	2,7	1,9	3,5
<i>High blood lipids</i>	2,7	2,7	2,7

Source : www.nsi.bg

PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET

In 2019 pharmaceutical market in Bulgaria recorded an increase of over 7% compared to the previous year and sales of drugs at pharmacy prices by 2,06 billion euros. The growth is mainly due to the development of the hospital market (EUR 390 million), which has grown by 15% over 2018, and mainly to some specific oncological categories. The pharmacy market, on the other hand, reached 1,7 billion euros, growing by 5,8%. Sales of non-prescription products reached EUR 551 million and grew by 7,8%, but the growth came more from food supplements, as sales of non-prescription drugs increased by only 2,7% in value.

The top 10 pharmaceutical corporations in Bulgaria hold about 40% of the pharmaceutical market for 2019, which amounts to 798 million euros.

These are:

1. *Novartis Sandoz*
2. *Roche*
3. *Actavis*
4. *Pfizer*
5. *GlaxoSmithKline*
6. *MerckSharp&Dohme*
7. *AbbVie*
8. *Sanofi*
9. *Sopharma*
10. *Bayer*

BULGARIAN NATIONAL HEALTH STRATEGY 2021-2030

PRIORITY 1 - Public health – Strengthening the capacity of public health

PRIORITY 2 – Improving the quality, efficiency and control of medical activities

PRIORITY 3 – Medicines policy – effective medicines policy

PRIORITY 4 – E-health

PRIORITY 5 – Human resources – improved conditions for education, training and working in the healthcare system

PRIORITY 6 – Ensuring financial sustainability of the healthcare system – policies for effective financing

Sources: Coface, Ministry of Health, National Statistical Institute, Bulgarian Hospital Association, The State of Health in the EU - Bulgaria 2019, local media