



# BULGARIA

Region: Europe and Central Asia

Income Category: High Income



**Human capital – knowledge, skills, and good health – empowers people to achieve their potential and drives economic growth.** This brief tracks progress by Bulgaria in building and using human capital. The Human Capital Complementary Indicators offer a snapshot of human capital investments at four stages of the lifecycle. The brief uses the latest available data. It is benchmarked against regional averages and reports progress over the previous 5 years.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

- **Neonatal mortality rate.** The neonatal mortality rate is **3** per 1,000 live births (2023). This remains unchanged since 2018. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Pre-primary school gross enrollment ratio.** The pre-primary school gross enrollment ratio is **84%** (by the official age) (2020), compared to 80% in 2015. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **DTP vaccination rate, third dose.** In 2024, **94%** of infants received the third dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine, compared to 93% in 2019. The indicator is higher than the regional average.

## SCHOOL AGE

- **Child mortality rate.** The mortality rate for children ages 5-14 is **2** per 1,000 children aged 5 (2023). This remains unchanged since 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Learning poverty.** In 2021, **18%** of children could not read and understand a simple text, by age 10, compared to 17% in 2016. The indicator is above the regional average.
- **Primary school completion rate.** The primary school completion rate is **96%** (by the official entrance age of the last grade) (2022), compared to 99% in 2017. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

## YOUTH

- **Adolescent fertility rate.** The number of births for every 1,000 women ages 15-19 is **39** (2023). This remains unchanged since 2018. The indicator is higher than the regional average.
- **Youth literacy rate.** The share of youth (ages 15-24) who are literate is **98%** (2021). The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Youth not in employment, education or training.** In 2024, **12%** of youth (ages 15-24) were not in employment, education or training, compared to 14% in 2019. The indicator is similar to the regional average.

## ADULTS

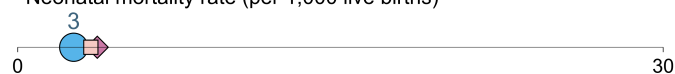
- **Female labor force participation rate.** Female labor force participation as a percentage of the female working-age population (ages 25+) is **55%** (2024), compared to 53% in 2019. The indicator is lower than the regional average.
- **Life expectancy at birth.** Life expectancy at birth is **76** years (2023), compared to 75 in 2018. The indicator is below the regional average.
- **Adult unemployment rate.** Unemployed adults as a share of the adult labor force (ages 25+) is **4%** (2024). This remains unchanged since 2019. The indicator is lower than the regional average.

## HUMAN CAPITAL COMPLEMENTARY INDICATORS

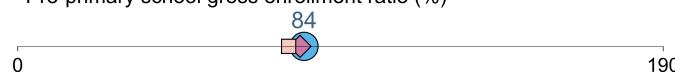
● Latest available data for Bulgaria (BGR)  
 ■ BGR approx. 5 years before    ◆ Average for Europe & Central Asia

### EARLY CHILDHOOD

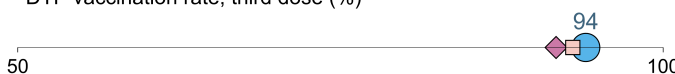
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)



Pre-primary school gross enrollment ratio (%)

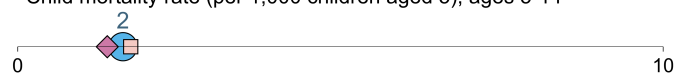


DTP vaccination rate, third dose (%)

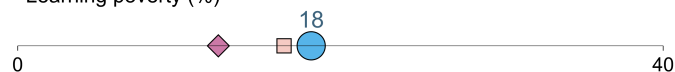


### SCHOOL AGE

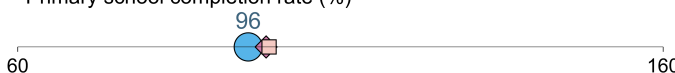
Child mortality rate (per 1,000 children aged 5, ages 5-14)



Learning poverty (%)

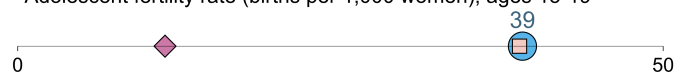


Primary school completion rate (%)

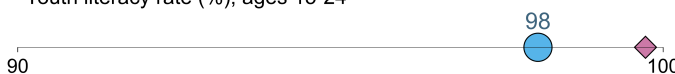


### YOUTH

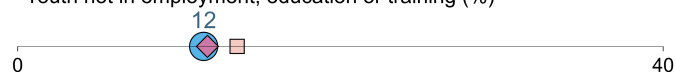
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women), ages 15-19



Youth literacy rate (%), ages 15-24

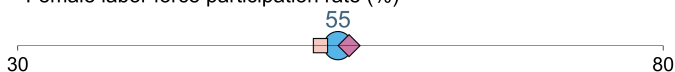


Youth not in employment, education or training (%)

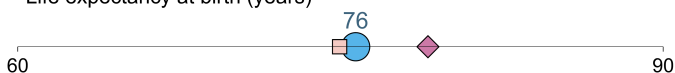


### ADULTS

Female labor force participation rate (%)



Life expectancy at birth (years)



Adult unemployment rate (%)



Note: All values use internationally comparable public datasets. Missing symbols indicate unavailable statistics. Full details can be accessed through the QR code.

