

Bulgaria

The Human Development Index - going beyond income



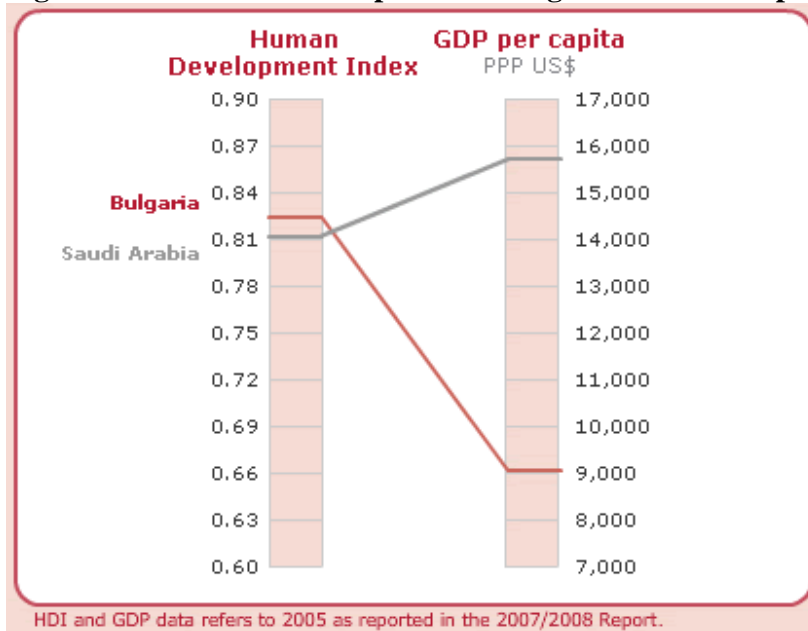
Each year since 1990 the Human Development Report has published the human development index (HDI) which looks beyond GDP to a broader definition of well-being. The HDI provides a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and enrolment at the primary, secondary and tertiary level) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity, PPP, income). The index is not in any sense a comprehensive measure of human development. It does not, for example, include important indicators such as gender or income inequality and more difficult to measure indicators like respect for human rights and political freedoms. What it does provide is a broadened prism for viewing human progress and the complex relationship between income and well-being.

The HDI for Bulgaria is 0.824, which gives the country a rank of 53rd out of 177 countries with data (Table 1).

Table 1: Bulgaria's human development index 2005

HDI value	Life expectancy at birth (years)	Adult literacy rate (% ages 15 and older)	Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (%)	GDP per capita (PPP US\$)
1. Iceland (0.968)		1. Georgia (100.0)		1. Luxembourg (60,228)
51. Cuba (0.838)	1. Japan (82.3)	20. Italy (98.4)		62. Uruguay (9,962)
52. Mexico (0.829)	64. Occupied Palestinian Territories (72.9)	21. Trinidad and Tobago (98.4)	1. Australia (113.0)	63. Romania (9,060)
53. Bulgaria (0.824)	65. Tonga (72.8)	22. Bulgaria (98.2)	51. Seychelles (82.2)	64. Bulgaria (9,032)
54. Saint Kitts and Nevis (0.821)	66. Bulgaria (72.7)	23. Croatia (98.1)	52. Belize (81.8)	65. Thailand (8,677)
55. Tonga (0.819)	67. Seychelles (72.7)	24. Saint Kitts and Nevis (97.8)	53. Bulgaria (81.5)	66. Turkey (8,407)
	68. China (72.5)		54. Philippines (81.1)	
			55. Dominica (81.0)	
177. Sierra Leone (0.336)	177. Zambia (40.5)	139. Burkina Faso (23.6)	172. Niger (22.7)	174. Malawi (667)

Figure 1: The human development index gives a more complete picture than income

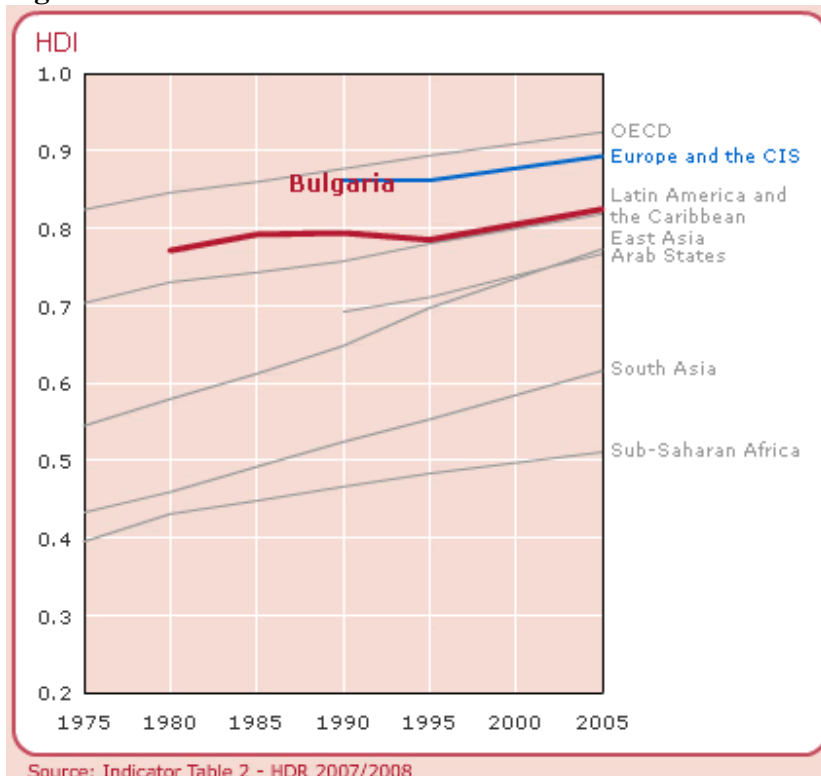


This year's HDI, which refers to 2005, highlights the very large gaps in well-being and life chances that continue to divide our increasingly interconnected world. By looking at some of the most fundamental aspects of people's lives and opportunities it provides a much more complete picture of a country's development than other indicators, such as GDP per capita. Figure 2 illustrates that countries on the same level of HDI as Bulgaria can have very different levels of income.

Of the components of the HDI, only income and gross enrolment are somewhat responsive to short term policy changes. For that reason, it is important to examine changes in the human development index over time.

The human development index trends tell an important story in that aspect. Since the mid-1970s almost all regions have been progressively increasing their HDI score (Figure 2). East Asia and South Asia have accelerated progress since 1990. Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), following a catastrophic decline in the first half of the 1990s, has also recovered to the level before the reversal. The major exception is sub-Saharan Africa. Since 1990 it has stagnated, partly because of economic reversal but principally because of the catastrophic effect of HIV/AIDS on life expectancy.

Figure 2: HDI Trends



Building the capabilities of women

The HDI measures average achievements in a country, but it does not incorporate the degree of gender imbalance in these achievements. The gender-related development index (GDI), introduced in Human Development Report 1995, measures achievements in the same dimensions using the same indicators as the HDI but captures inequalities in achievement between women and men. It is simply the HDI adjusted downward for gender inequality. The greater the gender disparity in basic human development, the lower is a country's GDI relative to its HDI.

Bulgaria's GDI value, 0.823 should be compared to its HDI value of 0.824. Its GDI value is 99.9% of its HDI value. Out of the 156 countries with both HDI and GDI values, 7 countries have a better ratio than Bulgaria's.

Table 2 shows how Bulgaria's ratio of GDI to HDI compares to other countries, and also shows its values for selected underlying values in the calculation of the GDI.

Table 2: The GDI compared to the HDI – a measure of gender disparity

GDI as % of HDI	Life expectancy at birth (years) 2004	Adult literacy rate (% ages 15 and older) 2004	Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio 2004
	Female as % male	Female as % male	Female as % male

1. Maldives (100.4%)	1. Russian Federation (123.1%)		
6. Kenya (99.9%)	28. United States Virgin Islands (110.5%)	1. Lesotho (122.5%)	1. United Arab Emirates (126.0%)
7. Russian Federation (99.8%)	29. Romania (110.5%)	53. Albania (99.1%)	112. Cape Verde (99.7%)
8. Bulgaria (99.8%)	30. Bulgaria (110.3%)	54. Moldova (99.0%)	113. Cook Islands (99.7%)
9. Viet Nam (99.8%)	31. Mongolia (110.2%)	55. Bulgaria (99.0%)	114. Bulgaria (99.6%)
10. Latvia (99.8%)	32. French Guiana (110.2%)	56. Turkmenistan (98.9%)	115. Nauru (99.4%)
		57. Trinidad and Tobago (98.9%)	116. Iran (Islamic Republic of) (99.3%)
156. Yemen (92.7%)	194. Niger (96.9%)	152. Afghanistan (29.2%)	194. Afghanistan (55.3%)

The gender empowerment measure (GEM) reveals whether women take an active part in economic and political life. It tracks the share of seats in parliament held by women; of female legislators, senior officials and managers; and of female professional and technical workers- and the gender disparity in earned income, reflecting economic independence. Differing from the GDI, the GEM exposes inequality in opportunities in selected areas.

Bulgaria ranks 42nd out of 93 countries in the GEM, with a value of 0.606.

Fighting climate change

As a result of past emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs), the world is now on course for future climate change. This year's Human Development Report identifies 2°C as the threshold above which irreversible and dangerous climate change will become unavoidable. It also explains why we have less than a decade to change course and start living within a sustainable global carbon budget identified at 14.5 gigatonnes of CO₂ (Gt CO₂) per annum for the remainder of the 21st Century. Currently, emissions are running at twice this level. If these trends continue, the carbon budget will be set for expiry during the 2030's, setting in motion processes that can lead to temperature increases of 5°C or above by the end of this century---roughly similar to temperature changes since the last ice age 10,000 years ago.

With 0.1% of the world's population, Bulgaria accounts for 0.1% of global emissions - an average of 5.5 tonnes of CO₂ per person. These emission levels are below those of Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS (table 3). If all countries in the world were to emit CO₂ at levels similar to Bulgaria's, we would exceed our sustainable carbon budget by approximately 147%.

High-income OECD countries meanwhile lead the league of "CO₂ transgressors". With just 15% of the world's population, they account for almost half of all emissions. If the entire world emitted like High-income OECD countries -an average of 13.2 tonnes of CO₂ per person, we would be emitting 6 times our sustainable carbon budget.

Bulgaria has signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol. As an Annex I Party to the Protocol, Bulgaria is bound by a target to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by -8% by 2008-2012.

Table 3: Carbon dioxide emissions

CO ₂ emitters	Total emissions(MtCO ₂)		CO ₂ emissions annual change (%)	CO ₂ emissions share of world total(%)		Population share(%)	CO ₂ emissions per capita(tCO ₂)	
	1990	2004		1990	2004		1990	2004
United States	4,818.3	6,045.8	1.8	21.2	20.9	4.6	19.3	20.6
China	2,398.9	5,007.1	7.8	10.6	17.3	20.2	2.1	3.8
Russian Federation	1,984.1	1,524.1	-1.9	8.8	5.3	2.2	13.4	10.6
Ukraine	600.0	329.8	-3.8	2.6	1.1	0.7	11.5	7.0
Poland	347.6	307.1	-0.8	1.5	1.1	0.6	9.1	8.0
Kazakhstan	259.2	200.2	-1.9	1.1	0.7	0.2	15.7	13.3
Bulgaria	75.3	42.5	-3.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	8.4	5.5
Estonia	24.9	18.9	-2.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	16.1	14.0
Tajikistan	20.6	5.0	-6.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	3.7	0.8
Georgia	15.1	3.9	-6.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	2.8	0.8
Global aggregates								
High-income OECD	10,055.4	12,137.5	1.5	44.3	41.9	14.3	12.0	13.2
Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS	4,182.0	3,168.0	-2.0	18.4	10.9	6.2	10.3	7.9
High human development	14,495.5	16,615.8	1.0	63.9	57.3	25.5	9.8	10.1
World	22,702.5	28,982.7	2.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.3	4.5

Bulgaria was mentioned in the Report in page 41.