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Candidate and Western Balkan countries

Key indicators and agricultural statistics
- a comparison with the European Union



Candidate and Western Balkan countries

After expanding to 25 Member States on 1 May 2004, the European Union is in the process of preparing for another round of enlargement. There are currently four Candidate countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey. The target date for Bulgaria's and Romania's accession is 1 January 2007, following the signature of Accession Treaties on 25 April 2005, while there are no dates for Croatia or Turkey joining the Union.

To join the EU, Candidate countries need to fulfil certain economic and political conditions, which are known as the 'Copenhagen criteria'. They include:

- stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the respect for and protection of minorities;
- a functioning market economy, as well as the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union;
- the ability to take on the obligations of membership, including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union
- the administrative capacity to implement the obligations of membership.

With the purpose of promoting these criteria, the EU has a range of financial instruments for the Candidate countries, such as the Phare programme, SAPARD and ISPA funds and other pre-accession funds. To measure the progress being made by the Candidate countries towards accession, the Commission submits Regular Reports to the Council on an annual basis.

For the Western Balkan countries, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro, the European Union has developed the Stabilisation and Association process with the general objective to draw them closer to the European Union and offer them the perspective of membership. The corresponding financial instrument for this policy is the CARDS programme (Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation) with the objective to support this process.

The CARDS programme, initially focusing on rebuilding infrastructure and fostering reconciliation, is now centred upon developing government institutions and legislation, encouraging the approximation of laws towards EU norms and harmonising legislation with EU acquis. EU financial support is directed towards reinforcing democratic institutions and the rule of law, encouraging the development of human rights, civil society, the media, the operation of free market economies, sustainable economic policies, and the promotion of social development and structural reform.

Annual reports produced by the Commission provide an assessment of the progress being made in the Western Balkans. These are used as an input when assessing the readiness of these countries to move closer to the European Union.

The role of Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, is to follow the progress of the Candidate countries and Western Balkan countries in the area of statistics and to support them in their efforts to align their statistical data with EU and international standards by providing assistance and collecting data from those countries.

Data collection

The information that is presented within this leaflet has been provided by national statistical institutes (NSIs). The majority of the data is taken from the key indicators that are collected on a regular basis by Eurostat Unit F3, which form the basis of statistical annexes that appear in the aforementioned annual progress reports on Candidate and Western Balkan countries.

The data extracted from NewCronos were processed during the second half of April 2005, while information that was provided directly by the countries was sent to Eurostat in either late 2004 or early 2005.

Symbols and abbreviations

- not available

-- not applicable, not relevant

In the graphs, names are abbreviated as follows: BG (Bulgaria), HR (Croatia), RO (Romania), TR (Turkey), AL (Albania), BA (Bosnia and Herzegovina), MK* (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), CS (Serbia and Montenegro), CS-KM (Kosovo).

Important notes

In all tables and graphs, the data for Serbia and Montenegro do not include Kosovo, which is under international administration in line with the UNSC Resolution 1244.

* Provisional code which does not prejudice in any way the definitive nomenclature for this country, which will be agreed following the conclusion of negotiations currently taking place on this subject at the United Nations.

Key indicators, 2003

	Total area (in km ²)	Average population (thousands)	Population density (per km ²)	GDP (EUR million)	Average exchange rate (1 euro =)	General government net borrowing/ lending (% of GDP)
EU-25	3 889 337	455 687	117.2	9 754 923	~	-2.9
Bulgaria (1)	111 002	7 824	70.5	17 655	1.94900	-0.1
Croatia (2)	56 594	4 442	78.5	25 526	7.56880	-3.0
Romania (3)	238 391	21 734	91.2	50 352	37 551.0	-2.0
Turkey (4)	769 604	70 713	91.9	212 268	1.69485	-8.8
Albania	28 748	3 126	108.7	5 418	137.258	-4.6
Bosnia & Herzegovina (5)	51 209	3 832	74.8	6 291	1.95583	-
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (6)	25 713	2 027	78.8	4 137	61.2631	-0.5
Serbia & Montenegro (7)	102 200	8 153	79.8	16 450	65.1649	-
Kosovo (8)	10 857	1 932	177.0	1 797	~	-

(1) General government net borrowing/lending, provisional figure. (2) Population as of 30 June 2003. (3) Population as of 1 July 2003; general government net borrowing/lending, provisional figure. (4) Population data is estimated; general government net borrowing/lending, provisional figure. (5) Population as of 30 June 2003; the local currency is the convertible mark (fixed exchange rate since the introduction of the euro). (6) GDP, provisional; general government net borrowing/lending, 2002. (7) GDP, 2002. (8) The local currency is the euro.

GDP and consumer price growth

	GDP (% change compared with previous year) (1)			Consumer price index (% change compared with previous year)		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
EU-25	1.7	1.1	0.9	2.5	2.1	1.9
Bulgaria	4.1	4.9	4.3	7.4	5.8	2.3
Croatia	4.4	5.2	4.3	3.8	1.7	1.8
Romania	5.7	5.0	4.9	34.5	22.5	15.3
Turkey (2)	-7.5	7.9	5.8	54.4	45.0	25.3
Albania (3)	7.2	3.4	6.0	3.5	1.7	3.3
Bosnia & Herzegovina	9.0	11.2	5.6	-	-	-
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (4)	-4.5	0.9	3.4	5.5	1.8	1.2
Serbia & Montenegro (5)	5.3	3.8	2.4	88.9	19.2	11.2
Kosovo (6)	-	1.2	3.1	-	-	1.6

(1) Growth rates are based upon constant price series, except Bosnia & Herzegovina. (2) National consumer price index is not strictly comparable with the interim HICPs used for the other Candidate countries. (3) 2003 data, forecasts. (4) 2003 data, provisional. (5) 2003 data for GDP, estimate. (6) Growth rate for the CPI is based upon a comparison between December 2002 and December 2003.

External trade indicators, 2003

	Goods and services (EUR million)		Goods and services (% of GDP)		Trade with EU-25 (% of total) (1)	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports to	Imports from
EU-25	3 415 267	3 283 551	35.0	33.7	---	---
Bulgaria	9 396	11 118	53.2	63.0	56.5	49.6
Croatia	12 023	14 499	47.1	56.8	54.7	56.6
Romania	18 228	22 256	36.2	44.2	67.7	57.7
Turkey	60 709	70 049	28.6	33.0	51.8	45.6
Albania (2)	923	2 084	19.4	43.8	93.8	71.2
Bosnia & Herzegovina (3)	1 200	4 742	19.1	67.4	49.9	57.7
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1 556	2 251	37.6	54.4	56.9	53.2
Serbia & Montenegro (4)	904	1 650	9.2	16.8	45.4	45.4
Kosovo	187	1 565	10.4	87.1	41.2	35.4

(1) Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Turkey, Bosnia & Herzegovina, trade with EU-15. (2) 2002, except for trade with EU-25. (3) Trade of goods only. (4) 2000, except for trade with EU-25.

Labour force Indicators, 2003

	Economic activity rate (% of persons aged 15-64)	Employment rate (% of persons aged 15-64)			Youth unemployment rate (% of labour force aged less than 25)	Long term unemployment rate (% of unemployed having been so for more than one year)
		Total	Male	Female		
EU-25 (1)	69.3	63.0	70.9	55.1	18.1	44.7
Bulgaria	60.9	52.5	56.0	49.0	26.8	66.4
Croatia (2)	62.4	53.2	59.6	47.0	35.8	59.6
Romania	62.2	57.6	63.8	51.5	18.7	65.7
Turkey	51.1	45.5	65.9	25.2	20.5	27.8
Albania (3)	60.1	51.1	62.6	39.1	26.8	-
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-	-	-	-	-	-
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	61.3	38.5	45.6	31.3	66.7	85.1
Serbia & Montenegro	68.6	57.2	66.4	48.1	45.6	-
Kosovo	50.3	25.3	42.8	8.3	74.9	85.9

(1) Data refer to second quarter of 2003. (2) Data refer to second half of 2003.

(3) Youth unemployment, 2002.

Demographic Indicators, 2003

	Crude rate of natural increase (per thousand inhabitants)	Crude birth rate (per thousand inhabitants)	Crude death rate (per thousand inhabitants)	Infant mortality rate (per thousand live births)	Life expectancy at birth (years)		Persons aged less than 15 (% of total population)
					Male	Female	
EU-25 (1)	0.4	10.4	9.9	-	74.8	81.1	16.6
Bulgaria	-5.7	8.6	14.3	12.3	68.7	75.6	14.3
Croatia (2)	-2.4	9.0	11.4	6.3	71.4	78.4	16.4
Romania	-2.5	9.8	12.3	16.7	67.4	74.8	16.7
Turkey	13.9	20.9	7.0	38.3	66.4	71.0	29.4
Albania	9.3	15.0	5.7	17.4	72.1	78.6	28.1
Bosnia & Herzegovina (3)	1.0	9.1	8.1	7.7	71.3	76.7	18.3
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	4.4	13.3	8.8	11.3	70.8	75.7	20.7
Serbia & Montenegro (4)	-2.7	11.1	13.7	9.2	70.0	75.2	16.2
Kosovo (5)	17.0	22.0	5.0	30.0	42.4	47.6	32.2

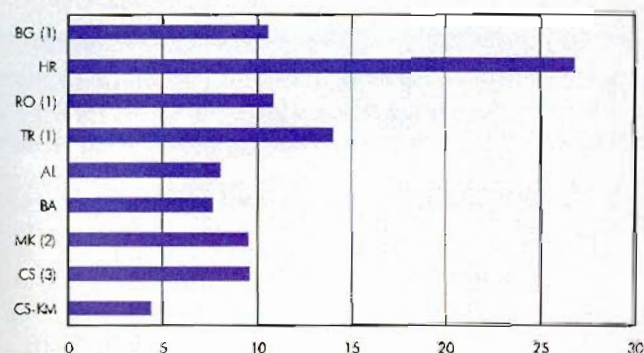
(1) Estimates, except for persons aged less than 15. (2) Data for crude rates, 2002. (3) Persons aged less than 15, estimate based on data from 30 June 2002. (4) Persons aged less than 15, 2002. (5) Estimates for crude rates.

Living conditions, 2003

	Physicians (1) (per 100 000 inhabitants)	Cars (2) (per thousand inhabitants)	Mobile telephone subscribers (3) (per thousand inhabitants)	Main telephone lines (4)	Food and non-alcoholic beverages (5) (% of household expenditure)
EU-25	-	454	809	516	13.1
Bulgaria	356	295	453	366	28.5
Croatia	239	291	571	417	32.2
Romania	195	142	320	200	34.6
Turkey (6)	137	67	394	268	26.7
Albania	141	56	371	83	54.9
Bosnia & Herzegovina	145	-	178	234	-
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	224	148	300	357	35.2
Serbia & Montenegro	342	152	227	262	45.5
Kosovo	114	118	315	52	61.2

(1) Turkey, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia & Montenegro, 2001. (2) The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, estimates; Kosovo, 2002. (3) Bosnia & Herzegovina, 2002. (4) Romania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, 2002. (5) 2002, except: EU-25, 2003; Kosovo, June-November 2002, including tobacco and alcoholic beverages; Romania, 2001; Bulgaria and Albania, 2000. (6) Number of cars, mobile telephone subscribers and main telephone lines: figures have been calculated using the population figures from national accounts.

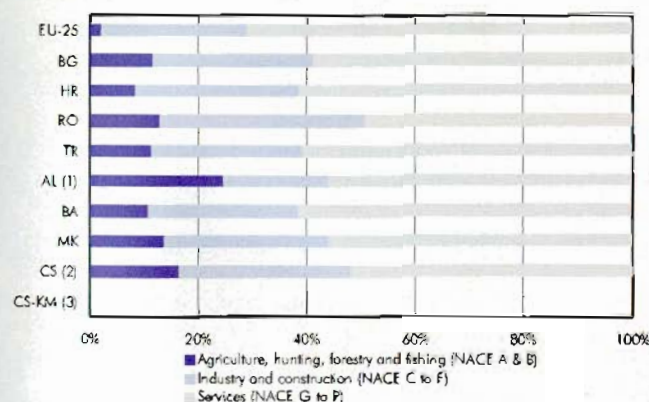
GDP per capita, 2003 (% of the EU-25)



(1) GDP calculated using population figures from national accounts, except for EU-25.

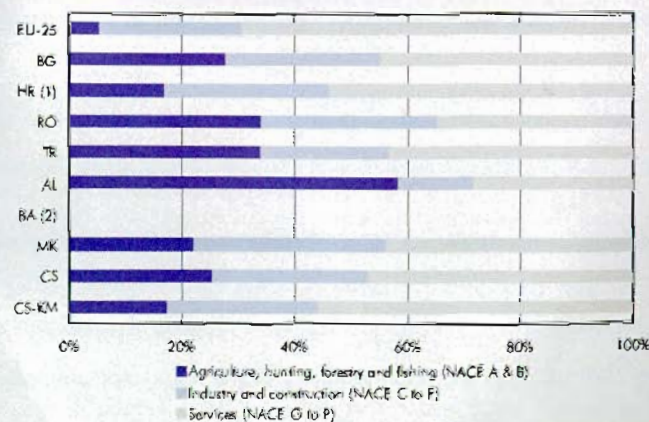
(2) Provisional. (3) 2002.

Gross value added by sector, 2003 (% of total)



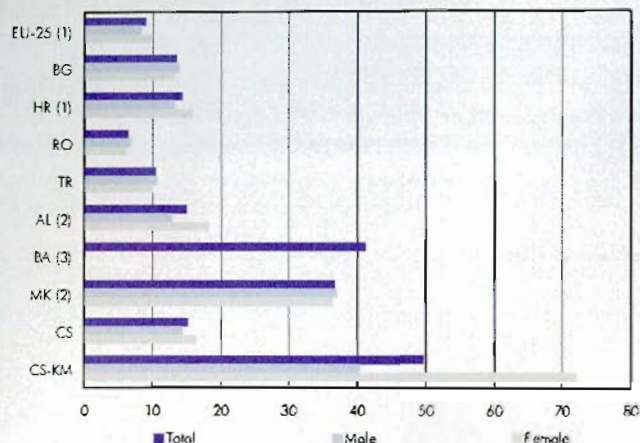
(1) Provisional. (2) 2002. (3) Not available.

Employment by sector, 2003 (% of total)



(1) Data refer to second quarter of 2003. (2) Not available.

Unemployment rates by gender, 2003 (% of labour force)



(1) Data refer to second quarter of 2003. (2) Provisional.
(3) 2002; no breakdown available by gender.

Economic Importance of agriculture

	Proportion of total gross value added (%)			Proportion of total employment (%)		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
EU-25	2.2	2.1	2.1	6.3	6.2	5.2
Bulgaria	13.4	12.1	11.6	26.3	26.7	27.7
Croatia (1)	9.1	8.2	8.4	15.5	14.9	16.8
Romania	14.7	12.5	12.9	40.9	35.1	34.1
Turkey	11.3	11.2	11.5	57.6	34.9	33.9
Albania	27.0	26.0	24.7	57.7	57.8	58.2
Bosnia & Herzegovina	13.0	12.1	10.7	-	-	-
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	11.7	12.3	13.7	24.9	23.8	22.0
Serbia & Montenegro	-	16.4	-	23.3	25.1	25.1
Kosovo	-	-	-	6.2	10.3	17.3

(1) Employment data for 2003 refer to second quarter.

Land use, 2003 (thousand hectares, unless specified)

	Usable agricultural area (UAA) (% of total land)	Arable land (% of UAA)	Permanent grassland	Land under permanent crops
EU-25 (1)	169 547	42.7	97 136	49 919
Bulgaria	5 326	48.0	3 282	1 792
Croatia	2 139	37.8	1 100	914
Romania	14 801	62.1	9 377	4 958
Turkey (2)	41 282	53.6	26 355	12 377
Albania (3)	958	33.3	395	441
Bosnia & Herzegovina	2 193	42.8	-	469
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1 303	50.7	471	787
Serbia & Montenegro	5 633	55.1	3 390	1 878
Kosovo (2)	574	52.7	252	43.9

(1) 2000, except: arable land, 2003; permanent grassland, 2001. (2) 2001. (3) 2002.

Area of production for crops, 2003 (thousand hectares)

	Cereals					Potatoes
	Total	Wheat	Barley	Maize	Sugar beet	
EU-25	51 878	22 155	13 362	6 213	2 258	2 226
Bulgaria	1 608	841	271	415	0	30
Croatia	690	206	54	406	27	63
Romania	5 501	1 735	330	3 159	45	282
Turkey (1)	13 901	9 100	3	560	315	195
Albania (2)	153	91	2	48	1	11
Bosnia & Herzegovina	793	160	40	545	-	303
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	193	104	47	34	1	14
Serbia & Montenegro	2 004	613	111	1 203	64	99
Kosovo (3)	-	74	4	53	-	5

(1) Total for cereals, 2001. (2) Sugar beet and potatoes, 2002. (3) 2001.

Harvested production of crops, 2003 (thousand tonnes)

	Cereals					Potatoes
	Total	Wheat	Barley	Maize	Sugar beet	
EU-25	234 500	106 726	54 580	41 495	121 370	58 927
Bulgaria	3 814	2 004	525	1 161	9	450
Croatia	2 356	609	134	1 569	678	375
Romania	12 964	2 479	541	9 577	765	3 947
Turkey	22 558	19 000	8	2 800	12 623	5 300
Albania (1)	489	260	3	207	39	163
Bosnia & Herzegovina (2)	-	336	54	472	-	286
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	466	225	63	137	40	175
Serbia & Montenegro	-	1 394	197	3 826	1 735	803
Kosovo (3)	-	249	10	181	-	71

(1) Sugar beet and potatoes, 2002. (2) 2000. (3) 2002.

Livestock, 2003

	Cattle	Pigs (thousands)	Goats	Sheep	Poultry (millions)
EU-25 (1)	87 489	152 793	-	89 923	-
Bulgaria (2)	736	1 032	725	1 599	15
Croatia	489	1 925	203	587	16
Romania	2 697	5 145	678	7 447	77
Turkey (3)	9 768	7	6 780	25 432	251
Albania (4)	694	86	909	1 628	5
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-	-	-	-	-
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (5)	265	704	79	1 251	3
Serbia & Montenegro	1 295	3 656	224	1 756	19
Kosovo	319	110	14	102	3

(1) Sheep, 2002. (2) Poultry, 2001. (3) 2002. (4) 2001.

(5) 2000, except: goats, 2001; poultry, 1999.

Usable agricultural area (UAA): arable land, permanent grassland, permanent crops, crops under glass and kitchen gardens.

Arable land: land worked regularly, generally under a system of crop rotation.

Permanent grassland: land that is not included in a crop rotation system, and that is used as or planned for the permanent production (five years and more) of green forage crops.

Land under permanent crops: is land with crops that are not grown in rotation, other than permanent pasture, which occupy the soil for a long period and yield crops over several years.

Area of production for crops: the land area set aside for the production of crops. Data on cereals refer to cereals for the production of dry grain (including rice). Sugar beet is one of the root crops. Potatoes include early and other potatoes.

Harvested production of crops: crop production measured in tonnes. Data on cereals refer to cereals for the production of dry grain (including rice). Sugar beet is one of the root crops. Potatoes include early and other potatoes.

Livestock: all livestock data are recorded at the end of the reference year.

Total area: includes all land area and inland water.

GDP: at market prices is the final result of the production activity of resident producer units.

General government net borrowing/lending: this deficit/surplus refers to the national accounts concept of consolidated general government net borrowing (-)/ net lending (+) of ESA95. The general government sector comprises the sub-sectors of central government, state government, local government, and social security funds.

Consumer Price Indices (CPIs): are economic indicators constructed to measure the changes over time in the prices of consumer goods and services acquired, used or paid for by households. The indices aim at measuring 'pure' price changes.

Imports of goods and services: imports are recorded on the resources side of the account and exports of goods and services on the uses side of the account.

Activity rates: the proportion of the population aged 15-64 that is either in employment (as an employee or self-employed) or unemployed.

Employment rate: the proportion of population aged 15-64 that are in employment.

Unemployment rates: all persons aged 15-74 who were not employed, had actively sought work during the past four weeks prior to the survey, and were ready to begin working immediately or within two weeks. The unemployment rate is the share of unemployed persons in the total number of active persons in the labour market (the labour force).

Crude rate of natural increase: crude birth rate minus the crude death rate.

Crude birth rate: the number of births in a reference year divided by the average population of the same reference year.

Crude death rate: the number of deaths in a reference year divided by the average population of the same reference year.

Infant mortality rate: the number of deaths of children under one year of age during the year to the number of live births in that year.

Life expectancy at birth: average number of years a person would live if age-specific mortality rates observed for a certain calendar year or period were to continue. Figures are given separately for men and women.

Physicians: general practitioners and specialists (definition may vary by country).

Passenger car: a road motor vehicle, other than a motor cycle, intended for the carriage of passengers, designed to seat no more than nine persons (including driver).

Mobile telephone subscribers: users of portable telephones subscribing to an automatic public mobile telephone service using cellular technology that provides access to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

Main telephone lines: are lines connecting the subscriber's terminal equipment to the public switched network and having a dedicated port in the telephone exchange system.

Household consumption expenditure: the value of goods and services used for household needs. Food and non-alcoholic beverages are classified as COICOP heading 01.

Gross value added and employment by sector: these indicators provide a breakdown of value added according to NACE and of total employment according to NACE, derived from National Accounts.

More information: national statistical institutes

Bulgaria - <http://www.nsi.bg>

Croatia - <http://www.dzs.hr>

Romania - <http://www.insse.ro/indexe.htm>

Turkey - <http://www.insse.ro/indexe.htm>

Albania - <http://www.instat.gov.al>

Bosnia and Herzegovina - <http://www.bhas.ba>

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - <http://www.stat.gov.mk>

Serbia and Montenegro - <http://www.szs.sv.gov.yu>

Kosovo - <http://www.sok-kosovo.org>

More information: European Commission

For general information regarding European statistics, please go to Eurostat's web-site, at <http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int>

For more specific questions on statistics in relation to the transition countries, please contact: Eurostat Unit F3 - Technical co-operation European third countries

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fax: (352) 4301-32139

For more information on European policies in this area, please go to:

http://europa.eu.int/pol/ext/index_en.htm

http://europa.eu.int/pol/enlara/index_en.htm