

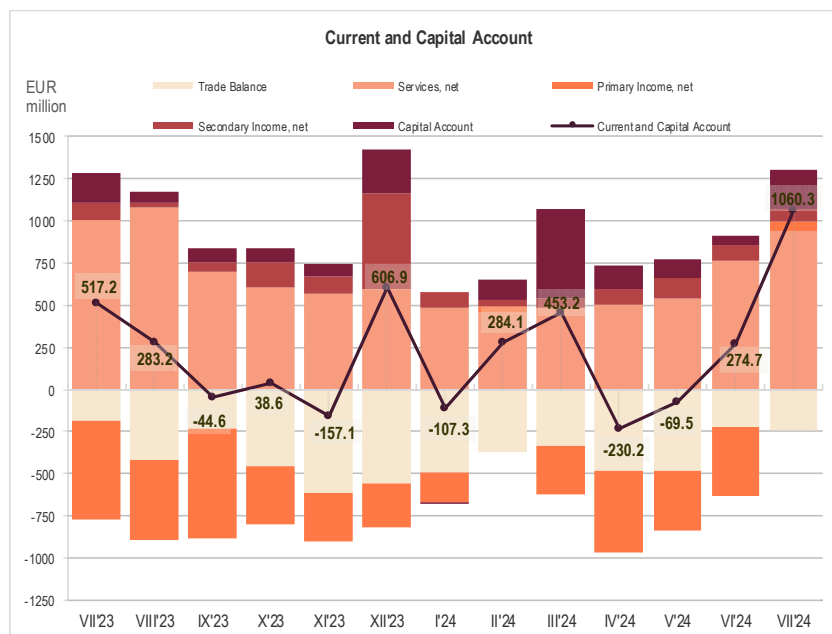


PRESS RELEASE

19 September 2024
12:00

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS¹
July 2024

The **current and capital account** recorded a positive balance of EUR 1,060.3 million in July 2024, compared with a surplus of EUR 517.2 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 the **current and capital account** was positive amounting to EUR 1,665.3 million (1.7% of GDP²), compared with a surplus of EUR 1,584.9.9 million (1.7% of GDP) in January – July 2023.



The **current account** was positive amounting to EUR 836.6 million in July 2024, compared with a positive balance of EUR 338.1 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 the **current account** was positive and amounted to EUR 484.8 million (0.5% of GDP), compared with a surplus of EUR 685.2 million (0.7% of GDP) in January – July 2023.

The **balance on goods** recorded a deficit of EUR 239.5 million in July 2024, compared with a negative balance of EUR 188.3 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 the **balance on goods** was negative amounting to EUR 2,625.7 million (2.6% of GDP), compared with a deficit of EUR 1,664.1 million (1.8% of GDP) in January – July 2023.

Exports of goods amounted to EUR 4,035.5 million in July 2024, increasing by EUR 365.3 million (10%) from EUR 3,670.2 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 **exports of goods** totalled EUR 25,082.9 million (25% of GDP), dropping by EUR 695.2 million (2.7%) year-on-year (from EUR 25,778 million, 27.4% of GDP). In January – July 2023 exports decreased by 6.5% year-on-year.

Imports of goods amounted to EUR 4,275 million in July 2024, increasing by EUR 416.4 million (10.8%) from July 2023 (EUR 3,858.5 million). In January – July 2024 **imports of goods** totalled EUR 27,708.5 million (27.7% of GDP), growing by

¹ The analysis is based on the standard presentation of the balance of payments, compiled in accordance with the Sixth Edition of the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual*. Preliminary data. In accordance with the practice of the BNB and the data revision requirements of the ECB (included in the *ECB Timetable for Exchange of Balance of Payments, International Investment Position and Reserve Assets Statistics within the ESCB*), the data for the period January 2014 – June 2024 have been revised. The data for July 2024 are to be revised with the August 2024 report.

² GDP amounting to EUR 100,161 million for 2024 (BNB forecast), and EUR 93,946.5 million for 2023 (NSI data as of 08.03.2024).

EUR 266.4 million (1%) from January – July 2023 (EUR 27,442.1 million, 29.2% of GDP). In January – July 2023 imports decreased by 7.9% year-on-year.

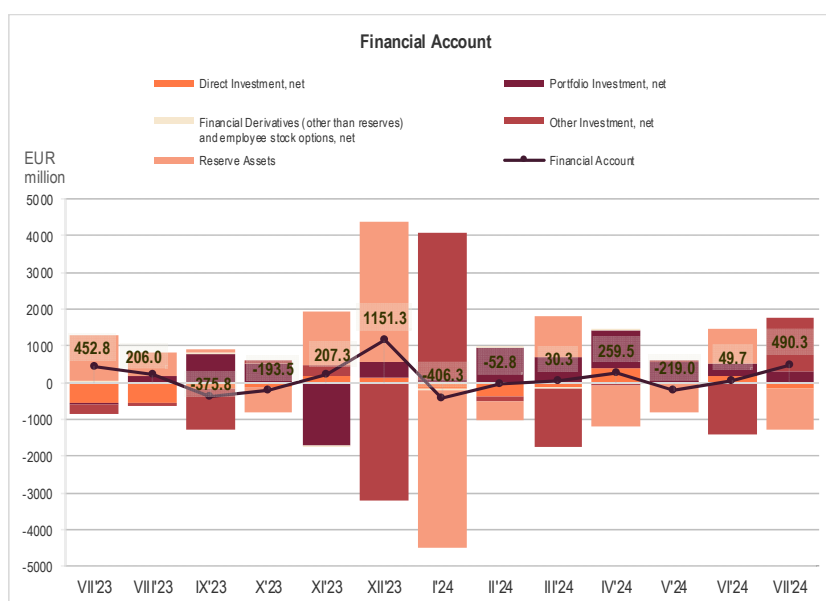
Services recorded a positive balance of EUR 936.6 million in July 2024, compared with a surplus of EUR 1,007.9 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 **services** recorded a surplus of EUR 4,177.5 million (4.2% of GDP), compared with a positive balance of EUR 4,268.7 million (4.5% of GDP) in the same period of 2023.

The net **primary income** (which reflects the receipt and payment of income related to the use of resources, such as labour, capital, land, taxes of production and imports and subsidies) recorded a surplus of EUR 64.4 million, compared with a deficit of EUR 578.9 million in July 2023³. In January – July 2024 the balance on **primary income** was negative equating to EUR 1,629.1 million (1.6% of GDP), compared with a deficit of EUR 2,503.3 million (2.7% of GDP) in January – July 2023.

The net **secondary income** (which reflects the redistribution of income) recorded a surplus of EUR 75 million, compared with a positive balance of EUR 97.4 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 the net **secondary income** was positive amounting to EUR 562 million (0.6% of GDP), compared with a positive balance of EUR 584 million (0.6% of GDP) in the same period of 2023.

The **capital account** recorded a positive balance of EUR 223.7 million, compared with a surplus of EUR 179 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 the capital account recorded a positive balance of EUR 1,180.5 million (1.2% of GDP), compared with a positive balance of EUR 899.7 million (1% of GDP) in January – July 2023.

The **financial account** recorded a positive balance of EUR 490.3 million, compared with a positive balance of EUR 452.8 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 the **financial account** recorded a net inflow of EUR 151.6 million (0.2% of GDP), compared with an inflow of EUR 1,266.3 million (1.3% of GDP) in January – July 2023.



The balance on **direct investment** was negative amounting to EUR 154.2 million, compared with a negative balance of EUR 557.8 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 direct investment recorded an outflow of EUR 254 million (0.3% of GDP), compared with a negative balance of EUR 2,125.7 million (2.3% of GDP) in January – July 2023.

Direct investment – assets grew by EUR 21.8 million, compared with an increase of EUR 18.1 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 **direct investment – assets** grew by EUR 805.7 million (0.8% of GDP), compared with an increase of EUR 657.8 million (0.7% of GDP) in the same period of 2023.

Direct investment – liabilities increased by EUR 176 million in July 2024, compared with an increase of EUR 575.9 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 **direct investment – liabilities** grew by EUR 1,059.7 million (1.1% of GDP), compared with an increase of EUR 2,783.5 million (3% of GDP) in the same period of 2023.

³ The preliminary data are subject to revisions with the quarterly reports of enterprises.

Foreign direct investment in Bulgaria (under the *directional principle*) increased by EUR 171.6 million in July 2024 according to preliminary data, compared with an increase of EUR 569 million in July 2023⁴. In January – July 2024 foreign direct investment in Bulgaria grew by EUR 604.3 million, compared with an increase of EUR 2,513.4 million in January – July 2023.

Direct investment abroad grew by EUR 17.4 million in July 2024, compared with an increase of EUR 11.2 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 direct investment abroad increased by EUR 350.3 million, compared with an increase of EUR 387.7 million in January – July 2023.

More detailed information on direct investment is available in *Annex 2 - Direct Investment (January – July 2024)*, and the data series can be found under *Statistics/External Sector/Direct Investments* on the BNB website.

The balance on portfolio investment was positive amounting to EUR 284.7 million, compared with a negative balance of EUR 45.6 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 the balance was positive and equated to EUR 3,885.4 million (3.9% of GDP), compared with a positive balance of EUR 1,077.1 million (1.1% of GDP) in January – July 2023.

Portfolio investment – assets grew by EUR 319 million, compared with a decline of EUR 86.7 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 they grew by EUR 3,446.6 million (3.4% of GDP), compared with an increase of EUR 1,780.3 million (1.9% of GDP) in January – July 2023.

Portfolio investment – liabilities grew by EUR 34.3 million, compared with a decline of EUR 41.1 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 **portfolio investment – liabilities** decreased by EUR 438.9 million (0.4% of GDP), compared with an increase of EUR 703.2 million (0.7% of GDP) in January – July 2023.

The balance on other investment was positive amounting to EUR 1,493.3 million, compared with a negative balance of EUR 230.9 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 the balance was positive and equated to EUR 2,283.5 million (2.3% of GDP), compared with an inflow of EUR 4,350.5 million (4.6% of GDP) in January – July 2023.

Other investment – assets grew by EUR 960.3 million, compared with a decline of EUR 1,109 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 they grew by EUR 2,010.5 million (2% of GDP), compared with an increase of EUR 3,048.9 million (3.2% of GDP) in January – July 2023.

Other investment – liabilities dropped by EUR 533.1 million, compared with a decline of EUR 878.1 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 they decreased by EUR 273 million (0.3% of GDP), compared with a decline of EUR 1,301.6 million (1.4% of GDP) in January – July 2023.

The **BNB reserve assets**⁵ decreased by EUR 1,128.2 million, compared with an increase of EUR 1,227.9 million in July 2023. In January – July 2024 they decreased by EUR 5,745.3 million (5.7% of GDP), compared with a decline of EUR 2,006.9 million (2.1% of GDP) in the same period of 2023.

The **net errors and omissions**⁶ were negative amounting to EUR 570 million, compared with a negative value of EUR 64.4 million in July 2023. According to preliminary data, the item was negative totalling EUR 1,513.7 million (1.5% of GDP) in January – July 2024, compared with a negative value of EUR 318.6 million (0.3% of GDP) in the same period of 2023.

⁴ When comparing the data year-on-year, please note that the initial FDI data for January – July 2023, published in the BNB press release on 19.09.2023, have been subsequently revised (www.bnb.bg, section *About BNB/Press Office/Statistical Press Releases/Balance of Payments*).

⁵ Excluding valuation changes due to exchange rate or price changes, changes associated with the creation of reserve assets (monetisation/demonetisation of gold and allocation or cancellation of SDRs), and reclassifications.

⁶ *Net errors and omissions* represent the difference between the financial account balance and the current and capital account balance. Due to the quarterly and annual reporting periodicity, these data are preliminary and are subject to revisions when complete data are available.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OF BULGARIA
STANDARD PRESENTATION ¹

(EUR mln.)

	Monthly figures			Twelve-month cumulated figures ending	
	July 2023	July 2024	Change	July 2023	July 2024
Current and Capital Account	517.2	1060.3	543.1	1417.8	2392.3
Current Account	338.1	836.6	498.5	-700.3	638.2
Current Account - Credit	5669.4	6228.9	559.4	65480.8	63721.4
Current Account - Debit	5331.3	5392.3	61.0	66181.1	63083.2
Goods and Services - Net	819.6	697.2	-122.4	2645.8	2832.7
Goods and Services - Credit	5279.9	5665.5	385.6	59779.6	57989.4
Goods and Services - Debit	4460.3	4968.3	508.1	57133.8	55156.8
Goods - Net ²	-188.3	-239.5	-51.1	-4508.5	-4888.7
Goods - Credit	3670.2	4035.5	365.3	45366.9	42844.4
Goods - Debit	3858.5	4275.0	416.4	49875.4	47733.1
Services - Net	1007.9	936.6	-71.3	7154.4	7721.3
Services - Credit	1609.7	1630.0	20.3	14412.7	15145.0
Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others	30.5	0.0	-30.5	126.3	241.1
Maintenance and repair services not included elsewhere (n.i.e.)	22.8	28.1	5.4	295.5	306.3
Transport ³	238.0	253.2	15.2	2342.9	2427.4
Travel ⁴	609.4	625.3	15.9	3622.6	3911.8
Other services ⁵	709.0	723.4	14.4	8025.4	8258.3
Services - Debit	601.7	693.4	91.6	7258.4	7423.6
Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others	6.8	1.7	-5.0	35.0	28.8
Maintenance and repair services not included elsewhere (n.i.e.)	8.9	11.0	2.1	82.9	89.5
Transport ³	181.2	202.7	21.5	2268.0	2181.3
Travel ⁴	162.2	208.3	46.1	1588.7	1790.3
Other services ⁵	242.6	269.6	27.0	3283.8	3333.7
Primary income - Net	-578.9	64.4	643.3	-4598.4	-3660.6
Primary income - Credit	138.6	344.8	206.2	2734.1	2569.4
Compensation of employees	80.9	182.5	101.6	756.1	949.1
Investment income	55.7	51.6	-4.0	977.1	911.8
Other primary income	2.0	110.7	108.6	1000.9	708.5
Primary income - Debit	717.5	280.4	-437.1	7332.5	6230.0
Compensation of employees	6.8	34.1	27.3	111.3	295.2
Investment income	694.9	233.9	-461.0	7003.8	5779.6
Other primary income	15.8	12.4	-3.4	217.4	155.1
Secondary income - Net	97.4	75.0	-22.4	1252.2	1466.1
Secondary income - Credit	251.0	218.5	-32.4	2967.1	3162.6
General government	91.8	60.7	-31.0	1069.9	1258.0
Other sectors	159.2	157.8	-1.4	1897.2	1904.6
Secondary income - Debit	153.6	143.5	-10.0	1714.8	1696.5
General government	83.0	66.7	-16.3	942.4	910.5
Other sectors	70.6	76.8	6.3	772.4	786.0
Capital Account ⁶	179.0	223.7	44.6	2118.1	1754.1
Gross acquisitions/disposals of non-produced non-financial assets - Net ⁵	103.4	82.9	-20.5	238.6	463.5
Gross acquisitions/disposals of non-produced non-financial assets - Credit	111.0	82.9	-28.1	1372.1	940.8
Gross acquisitions/disposals of non-produced non-financial assets - Debit	7.6	0.0	-7.6	1133.5	477.3
Capital transfers - Net	75.7	140.8	65.2	1879.5	1290.7
Capital transfers - Credit	75.7	140.8	65.2	1883.3	1312.0
Capital transfers - Debit	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	21.4
Financial account - Net ^{1,6}	452.8	490.3	37.5	2168.9	1146.8
Financial account - Assets	109.5	167.5	58.1	8791.9	5153.0
Financial account - Liabilities	-343.3	-322.8	20.5	6623.0	4006.1
Direct investment - Net ⁷	-557.8	-154.2	403.7	-3800.5	-772.7
Direct investment - Assets ^{8,9}	18.1	21.8	3.8	1003.2	1263.1
Direct investment - Liabilities ^{9,10}	575.9	176.0	-399.9	4803.7	2035.8

	Monthly figures			Twelve-month cumulated figures ending	
	July 2023	July 2024	Change	July 2023	July 2024
	Portfolio investment - Net	-45.6	284.7	330.3	891.7
Portfolio investment - Assets ¹¹	-86.7	319.0	405.7	3041.6	4659.4
Portfolio investment - Liabilities	-41.1	34.3	75.4	2150.0	602.9
Financial derivatives (other than reserves) and employee stock options - Net	59.2	-5.4	-64.5	-51.2	22.4
Other investment - Net	-230.9	1493.3	1724.2	821.2	-1700.8
Other investment - Assets ^{8,9}	-1109.0	960.3	2069.2	490.5	-333.3
Other investment - Liabilities ^{9,10}	-878.1	-533.1	345.0	-330.7	1367.4
BNB Reserve assets ¹²	1227.9	-1128.2	-2356.1	4307.7	-458.6
Monetary gold	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.9	1.2
Special drawing rights	6.3	0.2	-6.1	16.8	-0.6
Reserve position in the IMF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other reserve assets	1221.5	-1128.4	-2349.9	4289.9	-459.2
Balancing Items:					
Current and Capital Account Balance	517.2	1060.3	543.1	1417.8	2392.3
Financial Account Balance	452.8	490.3	37.5	2168.9	1146.8
Net errors and Omissions ¹³	-64.4	-570.0	-505.6	751.1	-1245.5
Memorandum items ¹⁴					
Direct investment abroad	11.2	17.4	6.2	658.5	602.1
Direct investment in Bulgaria	569.0	171.6	-397.4	4458.9	1374.8

¹ Standard presentation in accordance with IMF 6-th edition of the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual*.

Preliminary data as of 19 September 2024. In accordance with the BNB practice and with the ECB data revision requirements (included in the *ECB Timetable for Exchange of Balance of Payments, International Investment Position and Reserve Assets Statistics within the ESCB*), the data for the period January 2014 - June 2024 have been revised. The data for August 2024 and revised data for July 2024 are to be published on 17 October 2024.

² Preliminary NSI and BNB data for 2024. The data are based on the balance of payments compilation methodology.

³ Estimates following a methodology of the BNB and the NSI.

⁴ Estimates following a methodology of the BNB. NSI data on the number of foreign visitors and residents travelling abroad, and BNB estimates on expenditures (receipts) by purpose of travel.

⁵ Based on enterprises' direct reporting of transactions with non-residents related to services, remunerations, gratuitous receipts and payments.

⁶ A minus sign denotes decrease in assets or liabilities, and a positive sign denotes increase in assets or liabilities.

⁷ Preliminary data compiled in accordance with the asset/liability principle. Data are provided by direct investment companies reporting to BNB, banks, the Central Depository, notaries, the NSI, the Public Enterprises and Control Agency. The 2023 and 2024 data are subject to revisions with the annual NSI data and reports from foreign direct investment enterprises.

⁸ Data on net change of trade credits-assets (paid advances and receivables from suppliers) reported to the BNB are included in this item. Due to quarterly reporting data are subject to revisions.

⁹ On the basis of reports submitted to the BNB by enterprises with loans to/from nonresidents. Due to quarterly reporting data are subject to revisions.

¹⁰ Data on net change of trade credits-liabilities (received advances and payables to suppliers) reported to the BNB are included in this item. Due to quarterly reporting data are subject to revisions.

¹¹ Based on data provided by banks, nonbank financial institutions, insurance companies and pension funds, general government institutions,

and nonfinancial corporations acquiring securities without intermediation of a resident investment intermediary.

¹² Excluding valuation changes due to exchange rate or price changes, changes associated with the creation of reserve assets (monetisation/demonetisation of gold and allocation or cancellation of SDRs) and reclassifications. Increases in reserves are shown with a positive sign (+), and decreases with a negative sign (-).

¹³ Net errors and omissions represent the difference between the financial account balance and the current and capital account balance.

Due to the quarterly and annual reporting periodicity, these data are preliminary and are subject to revisions when complete data are available.

¹⁴ Preliminary data compiled in accordance with the directional principle.

DIRECT INVESTMENT (January – July 2024)¹

According to preliminary data, the net flows² of *foreign direct investment in Bulgaria* presented according to the *directional principle* recorded a positive value of EUR 604.3 million (0.6% of GDP³) in January – July 2024, dropping by EUR 1,909.1 million (76%) from January – July 2023 (positive value of EUR 2,513.4 million, 2.7% of GDP)⁴. Foreign direct investment in Bulgaria recorded a net inflow of EUR 171.6 million in July 2024, compared with an inflow of EUR 569 million in July 2023.

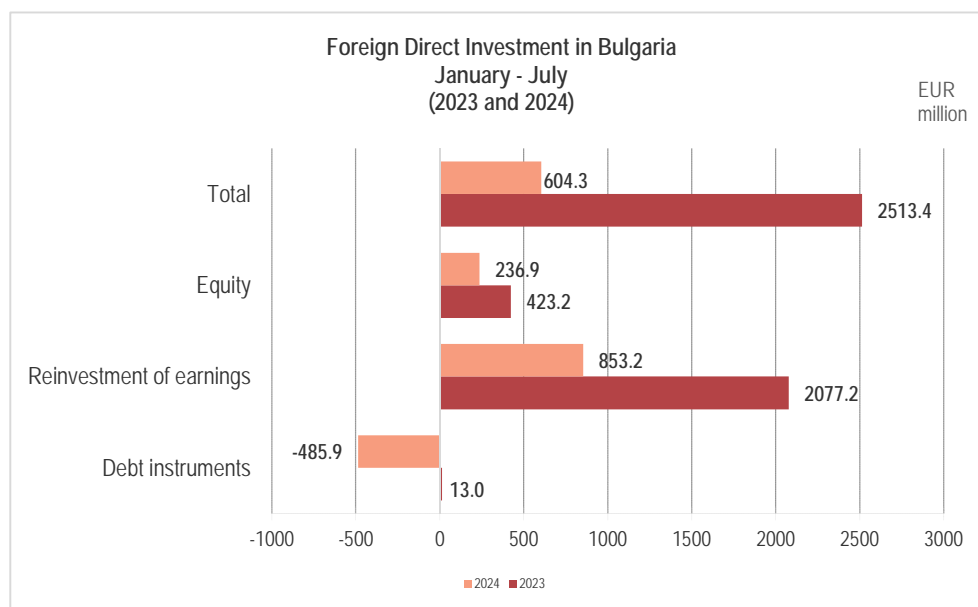
(EUR million)

	2023				2024				2024/2023
	Q1	Q2	Jul	Jan–Jul	Q1	Q2	July	Jan–Jul	Jan–Jul
Direct investment, net	-1813.3	245.4	-557.8	-2125.7	-694.3	594.5	-154.2	-254.0	1871.7
Direct investment abroad	176.9	199.6	11.2	387.7	95.9	237.0	17.4	350.3	-37.4
Equity	49.5	109.7	4.3	163.5	21.3	77.9	12.5	111.7	-51.7
Reinvestment of earnings	14.7	27.1	15.6	57.3	11.4	-58.4	0.0	-47.0	-104.3
Debt instruments	112.7	62.9	-8.7	166.9	63.3	217.4	4.9	285.6	118.7
Foreign Direct Investment	1990.1	-45.8	569.0	2513.4	790.2	-357.5	171.6	604.3	-1909.1
Equity	315.2	39.7	68.3	423.2	155.9	74.0	7.1	236.9	-186.3
Reinvestment of earnings	831.4	800.6	445.2	2077.2	203.5	517.0	132.7	853.2	-1224.0
Debt instruments	843.5	-886.0	55.5	13.0	430.8	-948.5	31.8	-485.9	-498.9

Data presented following the directional principle and compiled in accordance with the methodological requirements of the Sixth Edition of the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (IMF, 2008)*.

Source: direct investment companies, banks, notaries, National Statistical Institute, Central Depository, Public Enterprises and Control Agency.

A positive sign denotes an increase in assets and liabilities; a negative sign denotes a decrease in assets and liabilities.



Equity (acquisition/disposal of shares and equities in cash and contributions in kind by non-residents in/from the capital and reserves of Bulgarian enterprises, and receipts/payments from/for real estate deals in the country) recorded a positive

¹ Preliminary data. In accordance with the practice of the BNB and the data revision requirements of the ECB (included in the *ECB Timetable for Exchange of Balance of Payments, International Investment Position and Reserve Assets Statistics within the ESCB*), the data for the period January 2020 – June 2024 have been revised. The data for July 2024 are to be revised with the August 2024 report. The 2023 and 2024 data are subject to revisions with the annual NSI data and reports from foreign direct investment enterprises.

² The BNB publishes monthly data on FDI net flows (transactions) for the reporting month which include all transactions made during the reporting month.

³ GDP amounting to EUR 100,161 million for 2024 (BNB forecast), and EUR 93,946.5 million for 2023 (NSI data as of 08.03.2024).

⁴ When comparing the data year-on-year, please note that the initial FDI data for January – July 2023, published in the BNB press release on 19.09.2023, have been subsequently revised (www.bnb.bg, section About BNB/Press Office/Statistical Press Releases/Balance of Payments).

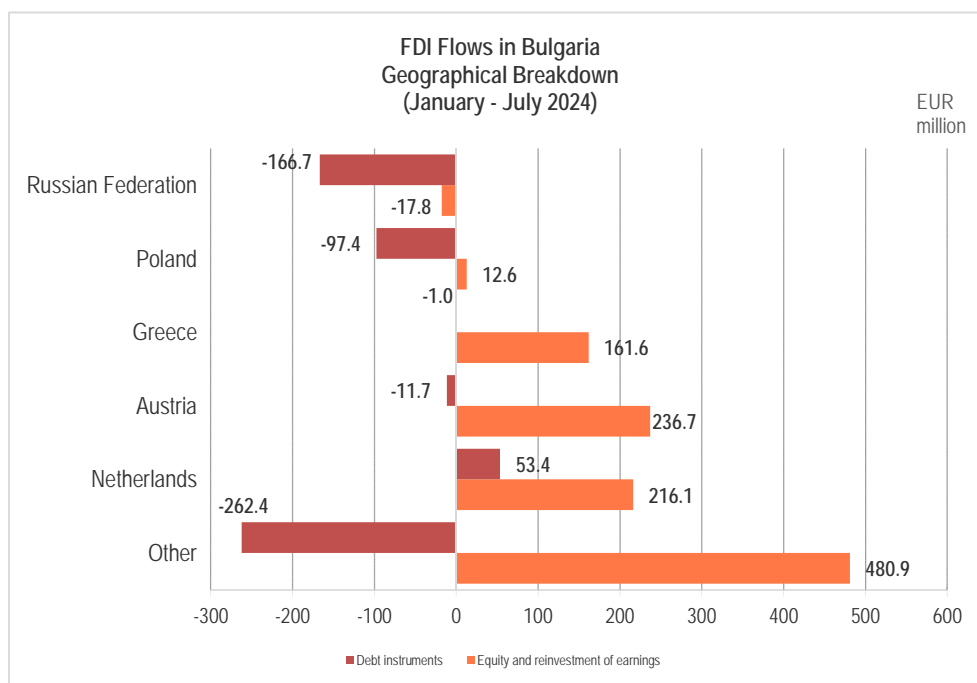
value of EUR 236.9 million in January – July 2024, dropping by EUR 186.3 million from a positive value of EUR 423.2 million in January – July 2023.

Real estate investments of non-residents recorded a net outflow of EUR 1.6 million, compared with a negative value of EUR 9.9 million in January – July 2023.

Reinvestment of earnings (the share of non-residents in the undistributed earnings/ loss of the enterprise based on preliminary profit and loss data) was estimated at a positive value of EUR 853.2 million, compared with a positive value of EUR 2,077.2 million in January – July 2023.

The net flow on *debt instruments* (the change in net liabilities between affiliated enterprises on financial loans, suppliers' credits and debt securities) recorded a negative value of EUR 485.9 million in January – July 2024, compared with a positive value of EUR 13 million in January – July 2023⁵.

The largest net direct investment inflows in Bulgaria for January – July 2024 were from Netherlands (EUR 269.5 million), Austria (EUR 225 million) and the Greece (EUR 160.5 million), whereas the largest net outflows were to Russia (EUR 184.4 million) and Poland (EUR 84.8 million).



According to preliminary data, *direct investment abroad* for January – July 2024 totalled EUR 350.3 million (0.3% of GDP), compared with EUR 387.7 million (0.4% of GDP) in January – July 2023. It recorded a positive value of EUR 17.4 million in July 2024, compared with a positive value of EUR 11.2 million in July 2023.

According to preliminary data, the stocks⁶ of foreign direct investment in Bulgaria stood at EUR 56,148.8 million at end-March 2024, compared with EUR 53,775 million at end-March 2023. *Equity and reinvestment of earnings* totalled EUR 47,747.1 million, growing by EUR 3,727.6 million from EUR 44,019.5 million at end-March 2023. *Debt instruments* amounted to EUR 8,401.7 million, dropping by EUR 1,353.9 million from end-March 2023 (EUR 9,755.6 million).

⁵ The data on *debt instruments* are based on preliminary information from foreign direct investment enterprises on credits extended/received to/from nonresidents. The data for 2023 – 2024 are subject to revisions with their quarterly and annual reports.

⁶ The BNB publishes quarterly data on FDI positions (stocks) as of the end of the reporting quarter, whereas positions refer to the stocks at the end of the reporting period. Changes in FDI stocks arise from net transactions, as well as from exchange rate changes, price changes, and other changes in volume. Stocks data as of end-June 2024 are to be published on 30.09.2024.