

INVESTMENT PROFILE OF RUSE MUNICIPALITY





Ruse Municipality
7000 Ruse, 6 Svoboda Square
www.ruse-bg.eu

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WE WELCOME YOU TO RUSE – THE FREE SPIRIT CITY!

In the last few years, we have implemented key and long-awaited projects, through which we have revived Ruse as a city-leader, an economic and industrial centre in the region!

The excellent prerequisites for receiving a good education in combination with the strategic geographic location, the secure business environment and the dynamic growth of sectors with high added value for society change the appearance of Ruse in a tangible way and make it a good place to live!

The municipality works actively to provide an attractive city brand and a favourable investment climate through the implementation of an Investment and City Marketing Strategy. Ruse is also one of the two Bulgarian municipalities with its own Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation, which sets new and ambitious long-term goals. By 2025 Ruse will establish itself as a city of knowledge and innovation, a city with competitive economy, with its development depending on the entrepreneurship, talents and skills of its residents!

In order to realise this inspirational vision for our city, we strongly rely on you – representatives of businesses, current and potential investors, creators of real economic growth.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Plamen Stoilov', is positioned above the name and title.

PLAMEN STOILOV
Mayor of Ruse Municipality

LOCATION AND CONNECTIVITY

Ruse Municipality is located in Northeastern Bulgaria, situated on the high right bank of the most international river in the world – the Danube. As the fifth largest city in the country and the largest port city on the Danube coast in Bulgaria, Ruse is a dynamic centre of economic life, a major transport hub and a lively cultural centre. The city of Ruse is also a centre of the North Central Planning Region, Ruse District and Ruse Municipality.

Undoubtedly, the competitive advantage of Ruse Municipality is its strategic location. Being part of the Danube macro-region favours its socio-economic development. Ruse Municipality can be accessed via all modes of transport. Ruse is at the crossroads of two Pan-European corridors: №9 (connecting Northern to Southern Europe, the Baltic Sea to the Mediterranean Sea) and №7 (turning the Danube into an intercontinental link between Eastern and Western Europe). The intersection of the two transport corridors near Ruse places the region on the map of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and creates excellent prerequisites for

development of transport and transport infrastructure. Transport corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia, known as TRACECA, also passes through here.

In the context of Bulgaria's and Romania's membership in the European Union, Ruse is becoming a city-leader in the field of cross-border cooperation, creating a new dynamics of the processes in the Bulgarian-Romanian cross-border region. The state border with Romania, which for many years has been a dividing line, is now a link that offers huge potential for developing new economic partnerships, sectors and markets.

Here is situated the first, and until recently,

the only bridge between Bulgaria and Romania – the Danube Bridge, designed for road and rail transport. Ruse and the town of Giurgiu, located on the opposite bank, have a joint long-term masterplan for development, and their common border connects them with 10 other European countries and 4 Danube capitals. About 70 km away from Ruse, on a first-class road, one reaches the Romanian capital Bucharest, with a population of over 2 million people. Being part of the cross-border agglomeration Ruse-Giurgiu-Bucharest and its multimillion market determines the investment attractiveness of the region.





DISTANCE BY ROAD FROM RUSE:

75 km	BUCHAREST
107 km	VELIKO TARNOVO
191 km	VARNA
296 km	CONSTANTA
309 km	SOFIA
313 km	SVILENGRAD
315 km	PLOVDIV
888 km	BUDAPEST
1123 km	VIENNA
1405 km	PRAGUE

The settlement network of the municipality includes 14 settlements - 2 towns and 12 villages. The average distance between the settlements is relatively small - 4.44 km, which is essential for the connectivity on the territory of the municipality.

The road network in Ruse Municipality is evenly distributed and in good condition. A highway between Ruse and Veliko Tarnovo is in the course of construction, which will connect the region to the "Hemus" highway. All settlements in the municipality are served by public transport.

The rail infrastructure is well developed. The railway lines Ruse-Varna (link between the Danube and the Black Sea) and Ruse-Gorna Oryahovitsa (crossing point of all major railway lines in Northern Bulgaria) are of primary importance for the economic connectivity. For its part, the railway transport in Ruse is of strategic importance for the combined transport of corridors №7 and №9. In addition to the central passenger station, there are two railway yards, a depot and three freight stations which serve the industrial zones in Ruse.

Ruse Port is the largest Bulgarian port in the Bulgarian section of the Danube River. It is a developed multimodal centre, with opportunities for combining water, road and rail transport. Ports and port terminals with national, regional and specialised function are situated on the coastline of Ruse, which stretches from km 505 to km 480. Ruse Port has three terminals: East, Center (passenger terminal) and West.

TRAVEL TIME FROM RUSE TO:

Henri Coandă International Airport – Bucharest	1 h 30 min
Sofia International Airport	3 h 30 min
Varna International Airport	2 h
Burgas International Airport	3 h 20 min
Plovdiv International Airport	4 h 30 min



Ruse Airport is situated seventeen kilometres away from Ruse, near the village of Shtraklevo.

In 2015, its ownership was transferred to Ruse Municipality and in 2016 it received a license for a flying field for small aircrafts.



MACROECONOMIC PROFILE

Sectoral structure of the local economy

Ruse maintains sustainable traditions in a wide range of business sectors but at the same time creates conditions for the development of new industries.

In 2016 there were 11 469 enterprises in Ruse District, which provided employment for 69 406 people. The net sales revenues amounted to BGN 7 416 million and the production was worth BGN 4 574 million. 72% of the enterprises in the district ended 2016 with a positive financial result.

The economic activity in Ruse District is

companies are also active in the fields of transport, hotel and restaurant services, real estate and construction. These are the economic activities of decisive importance for the economy of Ruse - they contribute to most of the production in Ruse Municipality, with the largest number of active enterprises with the largest number of hired and employed workers concentrated in them.

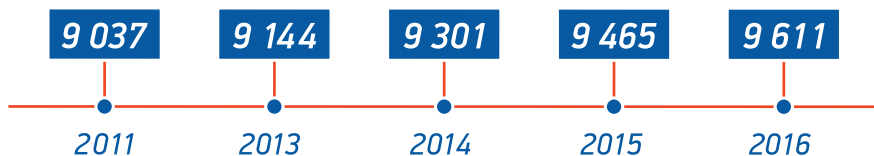
Although the sectoral structure is well-balanced, Ruse Municipality has a strong

parts, steel pipes and fittings. Leading companies include Dunarit JSC, SET JSC, Zhiti JSC, Sparky JSC, Naiden Kirov JSC. The activities in the field of the automotive industry and production of automotive parts and tools, transport and construction machines of companies such as WITTE Automotive Bulgaria SMLLC, Montupet SMLLC and MBM Metalwork LTD occupy an increasingly important place in the portfolio of economic sectors in Ruse Municipality. Here is also located the only manufacturer of locomotives in Bulgaria - Express Service LTD.

The chemical industry is also well-developed. The city has established positions in the production of motor and industrial oils, varnishes and components for their production, foil plastic products, foamed latex products and insulating materials. Established companies in this field include Prista Oil Holding Solely Owned JSC, Orgachim JSC, Megachim JSC, Marisan & Kolev JSC.

The textile industry is of crucial importance for the economic development of the municipality and the region. The companies in Ruse provide production for markets in Germany, France, Italy and the Middle East. Among the leading companies are Richmart SMLLC, Ariston-S LTD, BTB Bulgaria JSC, Delta Textile Bulgaria SMLLC, Danini Fashion SMLLC, Markam Fashion SMLLC. The textile and chemical industries, automotive parts production, together with the electronics and furniture industries, are the sectors with the best potential and cluster formation conditions.

Number of non-financial enterprises in Ruse Municipality



Source: National Statistical Institute – Territorial Bureau of Statistics – Ruse

concentrated mainly in Ruse Municipality: about 80% of the total number of enterprises, the volume of the net revenues and the production of the region.

Since 2011, the number of non-financial enterprises in the municipality has steadily increased and in 2016 it reached 9 611. The biggest number of enterprises is of those operating in the trade sector, followed by those in the manufacturing industry. Many

industrial profile and a well-developed industry. In 2016, the manufacturing enterprises in Ruse represented 86.7% of those in the district.

The metallurgy, mechanical engineering and metalworking are of key importance for Ruse Municipality. The main production of the sector includes river and sea-river ships, scissor lifts, hydraulic equipment, agricultural machinery, assemblies and

A large number of companies operate in the field of freight forwarding, transport and logistics, thus making this a key sector for the local economy. Companies such as Econt Express LTD, Danube Dredging Fleet JSC Ruse, Rubiships JSC and Holleman Bulgaria LTD are among the largest in the industry.



Production of non-financial enterprises by economic activities in Ruse Municipality /thousand BGN/

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES	2015
TOTAL FOR RUSE MUNICIPALITY	3 544 346
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES	126 193
EXTRACTIVE/MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, UTILITIES CONSTRUCTION	1 825 333
CONSTRUCTION	224 481
TRADE; REPAIR OF AUTOMOBILES AND MOTORCYCLES	573 227
TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE AND MAIL SERVICES	458 399
CREATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION AND CREATIVE PRODUCTS; TELECOMMUNICATIONS	47 944
PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH	61 417
ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	47 000
HUMAN HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL WORK	93 445

In recent years, new sectors with high added value for the local economy have been developing rapidly. Given the strategic geographical location of Ruse Municipality and the existence of long-standing educational traditions, the ICT-based and outsourcing industries stand out with excellent growth prospects.

Source: National Statistical Institute – Territorial Bureau of Statistics – Ruse

Economic activity

Ruse Municipality is the main engine for economic processes and a centre for economic growth in the region.

According to the Institute for Market Economics, Ruse Municipality can be defined as an economic core, a driver of the local economy, attracting workers from the surrounding municipalities and dominating as a regional leader in employment and production. Together with the municipalities of Vetovo, Dve Mogili, Ivanovo and Slivo pole, Ruse Municipality is designated as economic centre

“Ruse”. 90% of the population and 94% of those employed in the Region live in the economic centre. Ruse Municipality attracts 41% of the employees in Ivanovo Municipality, 28% of the employees in Slivo Pole Municipality and 13% of those in Vetovo and Dve Mogili. Ruse District generates more than 2.5% of the country’s GDP. The service sector holds a leading position in the formation of GVA in the district, generating over 59% of GVA, followed by the industrial (32%) and agricultural sectors (over 8%).

GDP and GVA by economic sectors in Ruse District

RUSE REGION	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
GROSS ADDED VALUE – MILLION BGN	1 395	1 639	1 690	1 776	1 925	1 942	2 039
AGRICULTURAL	115	141	138	143	147	130	140
INDUSTRY	369	568	616	629	672	688	751
SERVICES	911	930	936	1 004	1 107	1 123	1 148
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT – MILLION BGN	1 615	1 882	1 964	2 062	2 217	2 247	2 363
GDP PER CAPITA – BGN	6 515	8 022	8 441	8 939	9 694	9 912	10 523

Source: National Statistical Institute – Territorial Bureau of Statistics – Ruse

The GDP per capita in Ruse District is significantly higher than the average for the North Central Planning Region and places the region at 8th place in Bulgaria.

¹Institute for Market Economics. *The Economic Centres of Bulgaria. Sofia 2017.*

Economic activity indicators in Ruse District

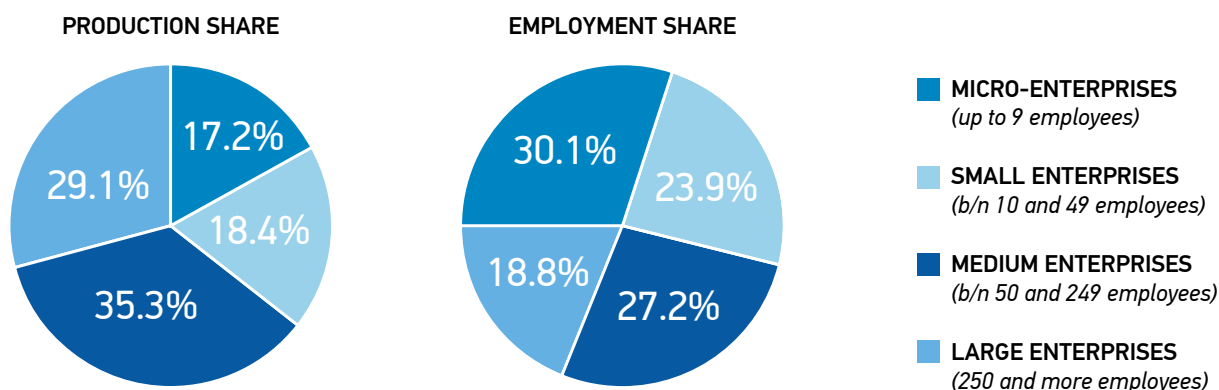
INDICATOR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
TURNOVER (THOUSAND BGN)	5 764 845	6 238 659	6 487 687	7 033 605	7 615 365
PRODUCTION (THOUSAND BGN)	3 287 592	3 612 812	3 971 031	4 345 609	4 574 346
ADDED VALUE BY FACTOR COSTS (THOUSAND BGN)	1 053 638	1 174 945	1 284 947	1 429 347	1 487 911

Source: National Statistical Institute

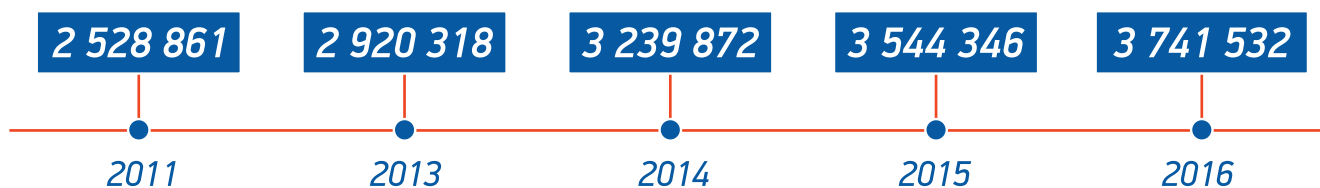
The Institute for Market Economics notes that in 2015 Ruse, as an economic centre, makes the highest growth of production compared to 2011 in Bulgaria - 40%.



Employment share and production share by type of enterprises on the territory of Ruse District



Production of non-financial enterprises in Ruse Municipality /thousand BGN/



Source: National Statistical Institute

There is a predominance of small and medium-sized companies on the territory of Ruse Municipality, which provide a significant share of employment. More than 90% of all non-financial enterprises in Ruse District are micro-enterprises (with up to 9 employees), and 84% of them are located in Ruse Municipality. On the other hand, medium-sized enterprises, each of which provides an average employment of 106 people, contribute with largest volume of production for the development of the regional economy.

In 2018, Ruse is ranked 2nd in a prestigious ranking of fDi Magazine, a publication of the Financial Times, for small European cities of the future in terms of cost effectiveness. The wider Ruse region is placed even further in the same ranking - 2nd place as the most promising small region in Europe, thus overtaking metropolitan areas like Sofia and Skopje.

The evaluation is done for nearly 500 locations throughout Europe, which are ranked in 6 categories.

TOP 10 SMALL EUROPEAN REGIONS OF THE FUTURE 2018/19 - COST EFFECTIVENESS

RANK	REGION	COUNTRY
1	STARA ZAGORA REGION	BULGARIA
2	RUSE REGION	BULGARIA
3	SKOPJE STATISTICAL REGION	MACEDONIA
4	BURGAS REGION	BULGARIA
5	PLOVDIV REGION	BULGARIA
6	VARNA REGION	BULGARIA
7	SREM DISTRICT	SERBIA
8	SOFIA (PROVINCE)	BULGARIA
9	KAUNAS COUNTY	LITHUANIA
10	SOFIA CITY REGION	BULGARIA

²fDi Magazine. fDi European Cities and Regions of the Future 2018/2019. February/March 2018. www.fDiIntelligence.com

Investments

The location of Ruse on the bank of the Danube River, the proximity to the Romanian capital Bucharest, the participation in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region connecting 14 countries of the Danube Basin, the natural resources and the cultural events are the main factors that guarantee competitive advantages for attracting investment resources in Ruse Municipality.

Ruse District is in ninth place in Bulgaria in terms of foreign direct investment. About 40% of foreign direct investment within the North Central Region is made in Ruse District. Traditionally, a significant part of the investments (over 80%) are concentrated in the enterprises in the regional centre - Ruse Municipality. In 2016, their volume grew by 6.9% compared to the previous year. With 9.1%, investments across the region increased over the same period of time.

Accumulated foreign direct investment in non-financial enterprises as of 31.12 /thousand EUR/

PLACE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RUSE REGION	335 086.3	347 321.9	372 402.2	385 754.8	337 023.4	367 854.6
INCL. MUNICIPALITY	328 741.0	-	316 918.8	335 698.2	277 693.1	296 853.9

Source: National Statistical Institute – Territorial Bureau of Statistics – Ruse

The share of foreign investments in industrial enterprises in the District is the highest. In 2016, 93.4% of the total volume of foreign direct investment was directed towards industry and services (trade; repair of automobiles and motorcycles; transport, storage and mail services; hotels and restaurants).

The acquired tangible fixed assets from non-financial enterprises in Ruse are relatively constant every year - about BGN 2 million.

Structure of Foreign Direct Investment in non-financial sector enterprises in Ruse District by economic activities in 2016



84.8%

Extractive, manufacturing and other industries; water supply, sewerage services, waste management and recovery



0.9%

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries; Education, humane health care and social work; Other services



0.9%

Professional activities and research; administrative and support activities



4.0%

Real estate operations



8.6%

Trade; repair of automobiles and motorcycles; transport, storage and mail services; hotels and restaurants



0.3%

Creation and distribution of information and creative products; telecommunications



0.5%

Construction

Smart specialisation

Ruse is one of the two Bulgarian municipalities with a functioning Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation for the period 2016-2025. The document outlines a way to improve the competitiveness of the local economy and the goal is to establish Ruse as a city of knowledge and innovation by 2025! The Innovation strategy offers the implementation of effective and forward-looking urban policies, as well as the restructuring of the local economy and its reorientation towards high-value technology industries.

Vision of Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of Ruse Municipality 2016-2025

By 2025, Ruse is a knowledge-based city with a competitive economy, with its development based on the concentration of entrepreneurial, technological, scientific, human, cultural and creative resources to stimulate priority economic sectors and to make effective use of the research and innovation potential.

The Innovation strategy outlines two priority areas for the development of the local economy:

- Informatics and information and communication technologies (ICT)
- New technologies in the creative and recreational industries

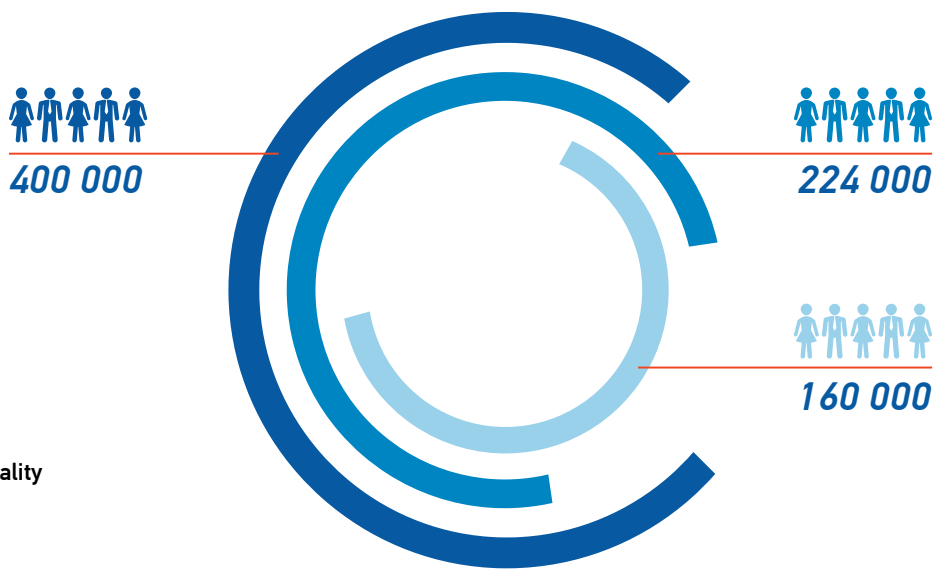
The traditionally established sectors in Ruse Municipality such as mechanical engineering and chemical industry, transport and logistics, organic farming and green industries are united in thematic area **mechatronics and clean technologies**.



EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

Demography

More than 160 thousand people live in Ruse Municipality. The number of the inhabitants of Ruse District is almost 224 thousand people. The population of the wider Ruse region, including people who live within an hour's drive by car in one direction is close to 400 thousand people. 220 thousand people of those are people in working age (between 16 and 63), with more than 60% of them living in Ruse District, and the rest living in the districts of Razgrad and Silistra. Young people under working age are over 50 thousand people.



POPULATION:

- Ruse Municipality
- Ruse District
- Ruse region

The share of the urban population in Ruse District is 78%, with 73% for the country in 2016. The population density is also higher – 78.2 people/sq km, with 64.3 people/sq km for the country. In comparison, the population of Ruse Municipality is 284.9 people/sq km, and it ranks among the top places in Bulgaria under this indicator.

The population living an hour and a half away from the city of Ruse, including on the Romanian side, within the cross-border agglomeration Ruse-Giurgiu-Bucharest, is 3.5 million people.

Education

Secondary education

The number of students in all general schools in Ruse District varies between 16 and 17 thousand. In the structure of secondary education on the territory of Ruse Municipality function 6 secondary schools and 2 specialised secondary schools – English language secondary school and Mathematics secondary school. In Ruse, there is also a general school with intensive study of German language and a school with the study of European languages.

Vocational education and training in Ruse Municipality is conducted in 11 vocational secondary schools, 1 sports school, 1 national school of arts, 1 vocational college and 4 private schools. The training in those schools is fully profiled and tailored to the needs of regional economy and it covers specialties and professions such as electronics, transport, economics, mechanics, clothing and construction. The total number of students in vocational schools in Ruse is about 5 000.

The main trends in the development of vocational secondary schools are related to promoting cooperation between business and education, modernising the educational system and the conditions for conducting the educational process, preparing competent and practice-oriented experts and specialists. Most of the vocational secondary schools already offer dual education course, which provides students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge in a real business environment.

Knowledge of foreign languages is among the main competitive advantages of the labour force in Ruse. The most studied foreign languages are English, German, French, Spanish and Russian. Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic and Turkish are also studied. 5 schools in the district are with “foreign language” profile, 2 of which are private. Traditionally, the schools in Ruse District show excellent results and are distinguished as top schools in English and German languages in rankings of the Ministry of Education, and their students are among the champions in national competitions for foreign language learners. Traditionally, the biggest number of school leavers chooses to take English language matriculation exam.

Table of the number of students, studying foreign languages in Ruse District during school year 2017/2018

FOREIGN LANGUAGE	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
 ENGLISH LANGUAGE	18 667
 RUSSIAN LANGUAGE	4 370
 GERMAN LANGUAGE	3 372
 FRENCH LANGUAGE	377
 SPANISH LANGUAGE	331
 CHINESE LANGUAGE	318
 JAPANESE LANGUAGE	293
 TURKISH LANGUAGE (MOTHER TONGUE)	227
 ARABIC LANGUAGE	14
 ITALIAN LANGUAGE	12

Source: Regional Department of Education - Ruse

VOCATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS (VSS) IN RUSE MUNICIPALITY:

VSS OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES “ATANAS TSONEV BUROV”

VSS OF MECHANICS

VSS OF CONSTRUCTION, ARCHITECTURE AND GEODESY “PENYO PENEV”

VSS OF WOODWORKING AND INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE “JOSEPH VONDRAK”

VSS OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND ELECTRONICS “APOSTOL ARNAUDOVO”

VSS OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT “ELIAS CANETTI”

VSS OF CLOTHING “NEDKA IVAN LAZAROVA”

VSS OF TOURISM “IVAN P. PAVLOV”

VSS OF RIVER SHIPBUILDING AND NAVIGATION

VSS OF AGRICULTURE “ANGEL KANCHEV”

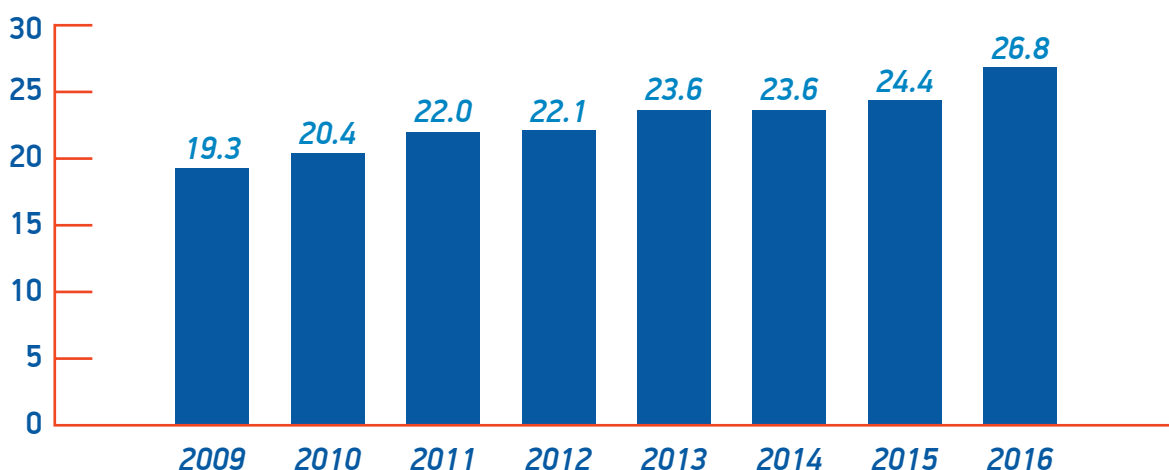
VSS OF TRANSPORT



Higher education

The relative share of the population between 25 and 64 years of age with higher education is of primary importance for enhancing the competitiveness, labour productivity and economic growth of a region. With a figure of 26.8% for this indicator Ruse ranks fourth in the country for 2016, ahead of districts such as Plovdiv, Pleven, Burgas, Blagoevgrad and Stara Zagora.

Relative share of the population between 25 and 64 years of age with higher education /%/



Source: National Statistical Institute

One of the most prestigious universities in Bulgaria – “Angel Kanchev” University of Ruse (www.uni-ruse.bg) is situated on the territory of Ruse Municipality. It has eight faculties, half of which are engineering: Agrarian and Industrial, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation, Transport, and the other four are in other fields of knowledge: Natural Sciences and Education, Business and Management, Law and Public Health and Health Care.

Around 8 000 students and PhD students are trained in the modern study halls and research laboratories of the university and its branches in Silistra, Razgrad and Vidin. There are more than 420 teachers, half of whom are habilitated.

The students at the University of Ruse are trained in 49 Bachelor’s and more than 90 Master’s degree programmes within the framework of 23 accredited professional fields in seven areas of higher education:

Technical sciences; Pedagogical sciences; Social, business and legal sciences; Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics; Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine; Health care and sports; Security and defence. There are a total of 51 accredited doctoral programmes.

As of the end of 2017, the university is training 152 doctoral candidates, with almost every second doctoral candidate studying scientific majors in the field of “Technical sciences”. More than 300 foreign students from 17 countries are also part of the academic community.

The spacious university campus, situated on an area of 2 hectares, has completely changed its appearance in recent years with the construction of a new study corps with floor area of 14 000 sq m, Kaneff Centre with congress hall with 800 seats, fully renovated educational buildings and reconstructed sports complex.

The university library has more than

half a million library units from different knowledge areas in different languages and offers access to the most authoritative online databases.

In the last accreditation by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency for a six-year period, the University of Ruse was awarded the exceptionally high rating of 9.28.

The research sector at the University of Ruse, in which multidisciplinary teams of highly qualified faculty, PhD students, students and technicians work, is the unit that organises and administers fundamental research, development, deployment and consultancy activities on a contractual basis. The research centre provides consultations, design and technological developments and services with modern methods and tools, guaranteeing high quality, reliable work, contemporary design in compliance with the eco-parameters of European standards.

Indicators for the development of R&D /thousand BGN/

RUSE DISTRICT	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES COSTS (R&D) (THOUSAND BGN)	3 293	5 647	6 090	16 267	16 123
STAFF, ENGAGED IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES (R&D) (NUMBER)	520	539	927	998	977

Source: National Statistical Institute



The University of Ruse has a Centre for Continuing Education, which organises long-term and short-term qualification enhancement courses in the field of engineering, informatics and information technologies, economics, pedagogy and foreign language training. Its services are used by leading state and public organisations and business representatives from the country and the region, with nearly 30 thousand people having enhanced their qualifications in different courses in the past 10 years. The University of Ruse is a regular member of authoritative international organisations: the European University Association (EUA); the Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC); the Visegrad University Association (VUA); the Inter University Centre Dubrovnik; the Balkan Universities Association (BUA), the Francophone University Association (AUF). It has leading positions in the academic exchange of students, doctoral candidates and university teachers under international programmes on the basis of over 400 signed multilateral and bilateral agreements with universities from 44 countries in Europe and the world. The University of Ruse is part of a consortium of universities University of Science, Informatics and Technologies in the e-Society), which is implementing a project for building a Centre for Excellence in Informatics and Information and

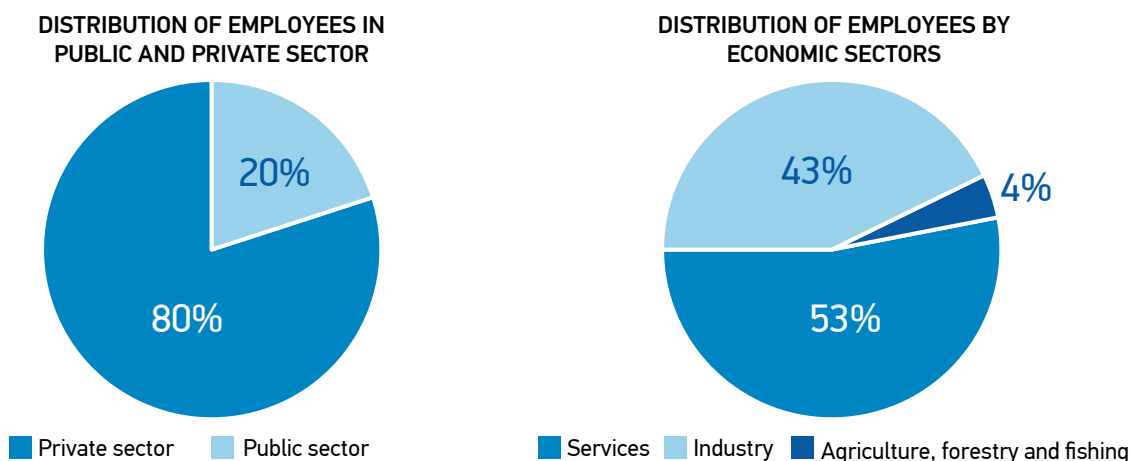
Communication Technologies. The broad research profile of the university provides perspective opportunities for both research and innovation in the most advanced areas of science, as well as for participation in thematic networks and author developments of key importance for knowledge-based economy on national and international scale. Annually, the University of Ruse organises and conducts 15-20 prestigious national and international conferences, and the collection of reports from the CompSysTech International Conference is indexed by SCOPUS. The university publishes five international magazines: Entrepreneurship & Innovation; Balkan Agricultural Engineering Review; Information Communication and Control Systems Technologies; Pedagogical Innovations and Journal of Applied Linguistic and Intercultural Studies. The University of Ruse has leadership positions in relation to the number and sustainability of implemented projects with international funding under different programmes: Erasmus, Framework Programs for Research and Technological Development, Operational Programmes of the Bulgarian government, Bulgaria-Romania Cross-Border Cooperation Program and many others. As a project under the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, in 2002 was created the first in Bulgaria and South-Eastern

Europe cross-border educational structure: Bulgarian-Romanian Interuniversity Europe Centre (BRIE) for training of international students in Master's degree programmes in English language. The university is part of a number of national and international structures, among which: Industrial clusters "Automobiles", "Electric cars", "Investors in charging infrastructure and electric vehicles", "Intermodal transport and logistics cluster – Ruse" and many others. 41 prominent figures have been awarded the honorary title "Doctor Honoris Causa" for special merits for the development of the university, among them are the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany - Dr Angela Merkel, Dr Erhard Busek, Giorgetto Giugiaro, Sonia Rouve-Uvalieva, Ignat Kaneff, Samuil Refetoff and others. On the territory of the city of Ruse also operates a branch of the University of Agribusiness and Rural Development (www.uard-ruse.bg), offering Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes: Management and Administration, Tourism, Economics, Agribusiness and Regional Development, Economics and Agribusiness Management.

Labour market

The distribution by economic sectors shows that in the agricultural sector (agriculture, forestry and fishery), the employed in the district represent 4.4% of all employed in this sector, in the industry - 4.0% and in the services sector the share of the employed in Ruse District is 2.3 % of all employed by this sector in the country.

The number of persons under employment relationship and public employment relationship in Ruse District is nearly 70 thousand people. More than 53 thousand people or 80.1% of all employed in the district work in the private sector. About 53% of those employed work in the service sector, about 43% in the industry, and just over 4% work in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.



In the services sector the biggest number of employed persons is in the field of trade – 27%. About 24 thousand people or more than 83% of the total number of employees in sector “Industry” work in manufacturing enterprises.

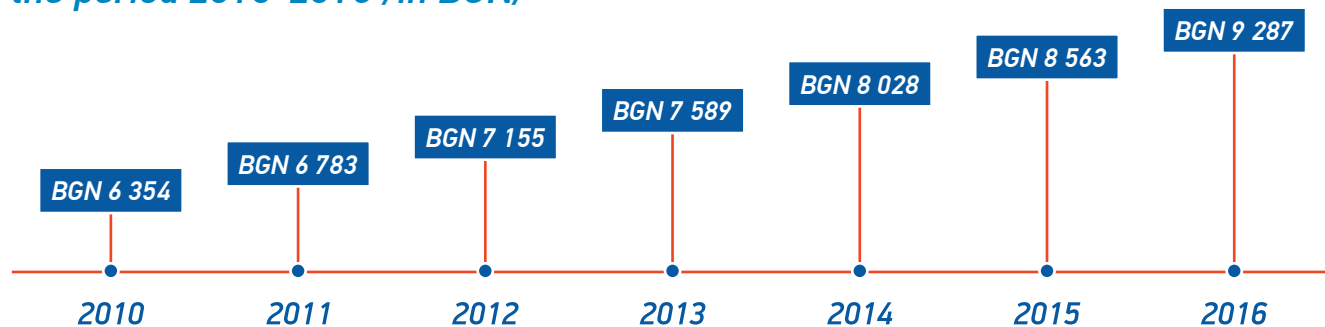
TOTAL	69 406
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES	3 474
EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY	1 254
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY	23 460
PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRICAL AND THERMAL ENERGY AND FUEL GASES	552
WATER SUPPLY; SEWERAGE SERVICES, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY	831
CONSTRUCTION	2 560
TRADE; REPAIR OF AUTOMOBILES AND MOTORCYCLES	10 436
TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND POSTS	5 777
HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS	2 249
CREATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION AND CREATIVE PRODUCTS; TELECOMMUNICATIONS	785
FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE ACTIVITIES	836
REAL ESTATE OPERATIONS	443
PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH	1 289
ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	1 953
STATE GOVERNMENT	2 612
EDUCATION	4 559
HUMAN HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL WORK	4 095
CULTURE, SPORT AND ENTERTAINMENT	1 041
OTHER ACTIVITIES	1 200

Persons under employment relationship and public employment relationship by economic activities in Ruse District for 2016

The average monthly salary as of mid-2017 of persons under employment relationship and public employment relationship in Ruse District is BGN 882. (EUR 451). By average salary the district is ranked 10th among the districts in the country.

Source: National Statistical Institute

Average annual salary in Ruse District for the period 2010-2016 /in BGN/

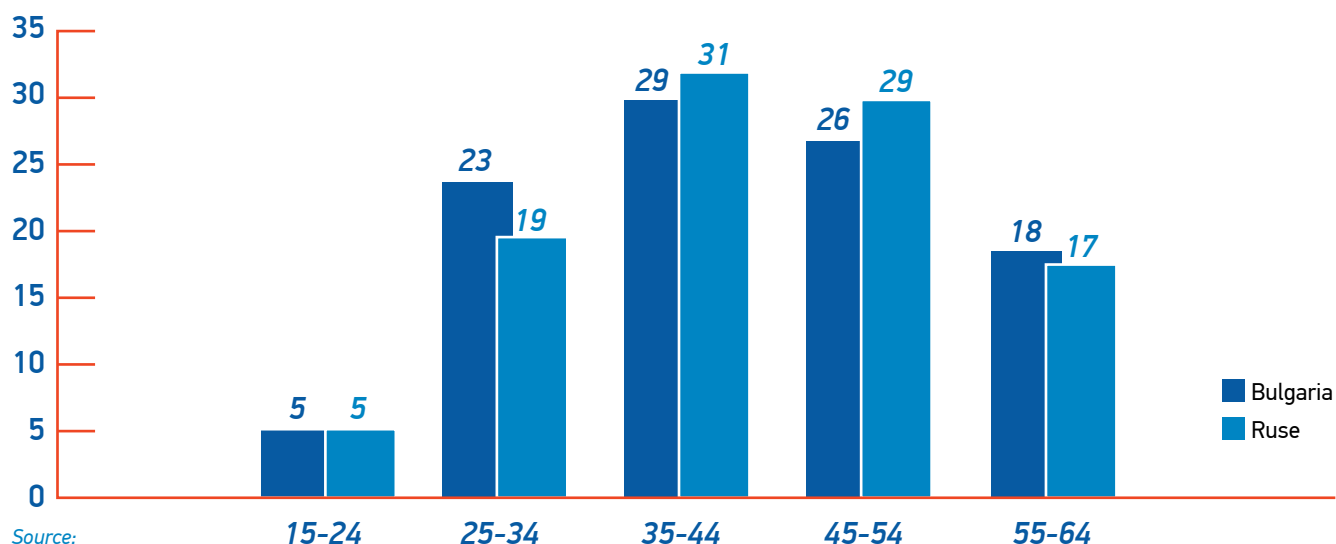


Source: National Statistical Institute

The average salary in the public sector is BGN 1 012 (EUR 517), and in the private sector – BGN 849 (EUR 434).



Distribution of employed persons by age groups between 15-64 years of age /in % for 2016/

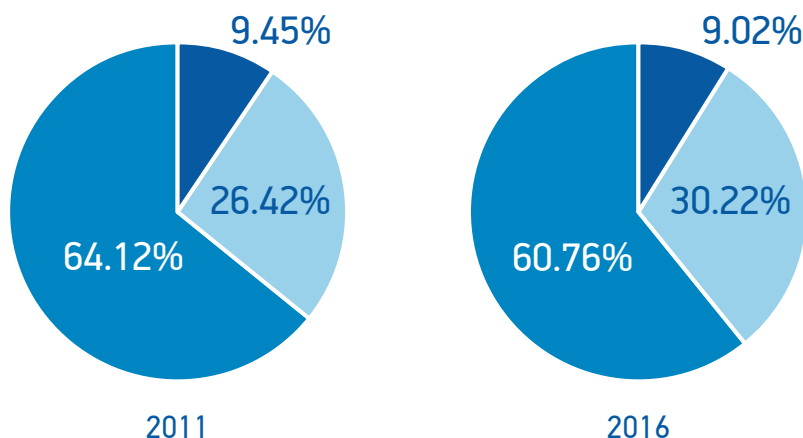


Source: National Statistical Institute

The economic activity in the district is 66.8%, with 68.7% for the country. The employment rate is 62.2%, with 63.4% for the country, and the unemployment rate – 7.0%, with 7.7% for the country. This places Ruse District among the districts with lowest unemployment rate in Bulgaria. Ruse Municipality is among the leaders under this indicator among all Danube municipalities – 3.8% in 2016, 3.3% in 2017.

Employed persons in Ruse District by level of education /2011/

Higher
Secondary
Primary or lower

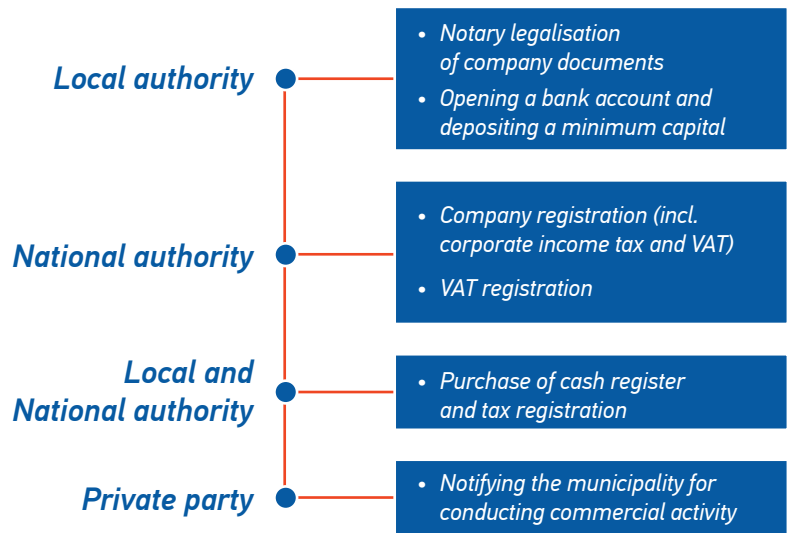


Source: National Statistical Institute

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

The World Bank's 2018 Doing Business report ranks Bulgaria 50th among 190 countries on its ease of doing business. According to the Distance to Frontier indicator, measuring the distance of each economy to the "frontier", which represents the best performance observed on each of the indicators across all economies in the Doing Business sample, with a score of 71.9%, Bulgaria is ahead of the region of Europe and Central Asia with an average score of 71.3%.

According to the World Bank's latest subnational report Doing Business in the European Union 2017: Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania, Ruse is a leader in the areas of registering property and enforcing contracts, compared to the five other Bulgarian cities participating in the survey - Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Pleven. Starting a business in Ruse takes 17 days - 6 days less than the in capital Sofia. Starting a business in the city requires entrepreneurs to go through 6 procedures. In Ruse, the obtaining of a permit for construction of an average warehouse, including connecting it to water and sewerage, requires 18 procedures - equal to the number of procedures required in the capital and two less in comparison to those required in Plovdiv. At the same time, the process for obtaining a permit is also the cheapest - 1.9% of the value of the warehouse, which makes Ruse the only Bulgarian city where the cost is below the EU average of 2%.

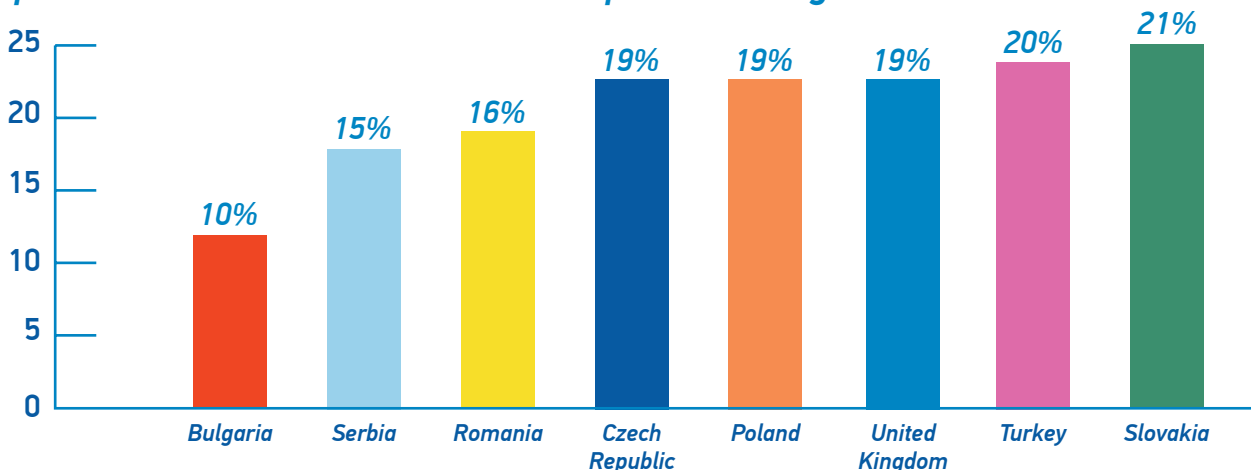


Source: World Bank. 2017. Doing business in the European Union 2017: Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania. Washington, World Bank. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO

Local taxes and fees

Bulgaria offers one of the most attractive corporate taxes in Europe (10%), which makes it one of the most desirable investment destinations. The personal income tax rate is also 10%. Although most of the taxes in Bulgaria are set at national level, municipalities have the opportunity to set some tax rates related to business development. Most of the local taxes and fees in Ruse are lower than the average for the country.

Corporate taxes in other countries compared to Bulgaria



Source: Bulgarian Investment Agency





Taxes and fees in Bulgaria and Ruse

TAX/FEE	NUMBER OF PAYMENTS	TAX RATE	TAX BASE
CORPORATE TAX	1	10%	TAXABLE INCOME
SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS	1	18.7% WITH MAXIMUM INSURABLE EARNINGS – BGN 2 600	GROSS SALARY
MUNICIPAL SERVICES FEES (MUNICIPAL WASTE FEE) – RUSE	1 (in 2 instalments)	4.2‰ (OR CONTAINER FEE + 2.0‰)	THE HIGHER OF THE CARRYING AMOUNT OR THE TAX ASSESSMENT (AND THE NUMBER OF WASTE CONTAINERS USED)
NOTARY FEE FOR TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP	1	FROM 30 TO BGN 1 531 + 0.1% -1.5% FROM THE PROPERTY VALUE (MAX BGN 6 000). 20% VAT IS CHARGED ON THE NOTARY FEE	THE HIGHER OF THE TAX ASSESSMENT OR THE SALE PRICE
TAX ON PROPERTY PURCHASE	1	2.2%	THE HIGHER OF THE TAX ASSESSMENT OR THE SALE PRICE
PROPERTY TAX	1 (in 2 instalments)	2‰	THE HIGHER OF THE CARRYING AMOUNT OR THE TAX ASSESSMENT
VIGNETTE	1	BGN 97 – 1 300	TYPE OF VEHICLE
VEHICLE TAX	1	BGN 12 – 1 000	UNIT OF VEHICLE TYPE (LIGHT OR CARGO)
INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX	1	2.0%	INSURANCE AMOUNT
VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT)	1	20%	ADDED VALUE
FINAL/ ONE-OFF TAX ON CERTAIN COSTS	1	10%	GROSS COSTS
FUEL TAXES	1	-	INCLUDED IN FUEL PRICE

Utilities

Electricity

The price of electricity for industrial purposes in Bulgaria is one the lowest in Europe.

The main supplier of electricity to Ruse is ENERGO-PRO Varna Solely Owned JSC (www.energo-pro.bg). Over the last 10 years, the company has made significant investments to improve the electricity supply infrastructure in the region, including construction of new transformer stations and electrical equipment. An electrical substation "Slatina" 110/20 kV was built for power supply to new production plants

in Industrial Park - Ruse. Cable electrical supplies were built for the factories of Montupet SMLLC, Keros Bulgaria Solely Owned JSC, WITTE Automotive Bulgaria SMLLC, Balkanzink JSC, Ruse Logistics Park and other new industrial users on the territory of Ruse and Ruse District.

The business customers of ENERGO-PRO Sales JSC, connected to low voltage, pay the following prices for network services:

- Price for transmission and access through/to the electric distribution grid: **0.00472 EUR/ kWh**
- Price for transmission of electricity

- through the electricity distribution grid with average voltage: **0.00529 EUR/ kWh**
- Price for transmission of electricity through the electricity distribution grid with low voltage: **0.01537 EUR/ kWh**
- Price for access to the electric distribution grid: **0.00409 EUR/ kWh**
- The excise rate for electrical energy for business purposes is **1.02258 EUR/ kWh**.

As of 01.07.2017, the current prices without VAT and excise duty for the sale of electricity to non-residential (business) customers connected to the low voltage electricity distribution network are:

METHOD OF MEASUREMENT	DAY ZONES	ELECTRICITY PRICE	ELECTRICITY AND NETWORK SERVICES PRICE
WITH THREE SCALES	PEAK	0.09193 EUR/KWH	0.11612 EUR/KWH
	DAILY	0.06346 EUR/KWH	0.08765 EUR/KWH
	NIGHTLY	0.03585 EUR/KWH	0.06004 EUR/KWH
WITH TWO SCALES	DAILY	0.07378 EUR/KWH	0.09797 EUR/KWH
	NIGHTLY	0.03585 EUR/KWH	0.06004 EUR/KWH
WITH ONE SCALE		0.07378 EUR/KWH	0.09797 EUR/KWH

Source: ENERGO-PRO Sales JSC

Connecting to the electricity distribution network in Ruse takes 240 days – 22 days less than the time needed for the same procedure in the capital Sofia, with the cost for this being five times lower. The costs for connecting to the network, amounting to 107.1% of the income per capita, are also significantly lower than the EU average – 128.5%.



³World Bank. 2017. *Doing business in the European Union 2017: Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania*. Washington, World Bank. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO

Prices of Water Supply and Sewerage services for industrial users EUR/m³

TITLE OF THE SERVICE	PRICE WITHOUT VAT IN EUR
FOR WATER SUPPLY	0.9167
FOR WATER DIVERSION	0.0945
FOR WATER TREATMENT	
HOUSEHOLD USERS EQUIVALENT	0.1692
GRADE I POLLUTION	0.1861
GRADE II POLLUTION	0.2725
GRADE III POLLUTION	0.3395

Source: Water supply and sewerage LTD – Ruse

Water supply and sewerage

The company which provides services for providing drinking water, diversion and treatment of wastewater for household and industrial consumers in Ruse District is Water Supply and Sewerage LTD – Ruse (www.vik-ruse.com).

The company serves 84 settlements in Ruse District or more than 220 thousand users. Water supply is provided for 100% of the settlements, while sewerage services are available for 64.32% of the population served in the district (90% of the residents of Ruse). The company also operates a wastewater treatment plant in the city of Ruse – equivalent 240 000 residents.

To connect to the water supply and sewerage system users should submit a written application. The procedure involves conducting a preliminary study and specifying the technical conditions for connecting to the system, signing a preliminary contract for connecting to the system, preparing an investment project and signing a contract for the provision of water supply and sewerage services.

Natural gas

The services related to natural gas distribution and supply of natural gas by an end supplier in Ruse District are carried out by the largest gas distribution company in the country - Overgas Networks JSC (www.Overgas.bg). The total value of the investments made by the natural gas distribution and supply company on the territory of the district is about EUR 10 million, with over EUR 5.5 million made in the period 2008-2017. The company supplies more than 4 000 natural gas users.

The company has built nearly 133 thousand meters of gas distribution network on the territory of Ruse Municipality: the city of Ruse and the town of Marten - 132 364 m. For the territory of the Ruse District, projects have been drawn up and new building permits have been issued for 116 000 m.

Overgas Networks JSC operates the gas distribution network in the following industrial zones:

- Danube Industrial Zone TEGRA (2 900 lm)
- Eastern Industrial Zone (19 036 lm)
- Industrial Park – Ruse (16 945 lm)
- Western Industrial Zone (17 700 lm)
- gas distribution network on the territory of SET JSC (1 000 lm).

The prices for distribution and supply of natural gas are differentiated according to tariff groups depending on the use of natural gas - for both commercial and household needs. Commercial users are divided into tariff groups depending on the consumption patterns - even and uneven, as well as on the basis of annual consumption.

End-user prices include price for distribution, price for supply and the natural gas price, with the exception of the end price for household customers and business customers with uneven consumption up to 5 000 m³, which does not include a supply price. The price for supply of customers with uneven consumption up to 5 000 m³ amounts to 1.55 EUR/month, VAT excluded.

Natural gas prices for end users, VAT included

USER GROUPS	EUR/ 1 000 M ³	EUR/MWH
EVEN CONSUMPTION		
up to 50 000 m ³ /year, incl.	326.43	30.90
up to 100 000 m ³ /year, incl.	320.25	30.32
up to 200 000 m ³ /year, incl.	314.06	29.73
up to 400 000 m ³ /year, incl.	307.85	29.14
up to 600 000 m ³ /year, incl.	304.21	28.80
up to 800 000 m ³ /year, incl.	301.62	28.56
up to 1 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	299.59	28.36
up to 2 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	293.24	27.76
up to 3 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	289.45	27.40
up to 4 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	286.71	27.14
up to 5 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	284.55	26.94
up to 7 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	281.19	26.62
up to 10 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	277.48	26.27
over 10 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	272.98	25.84
UNEVEN CONSUMPTION		
up to 5 000 m ³ /year, incl.	381.03	36.07
up to 50 000 m ³ /year, incl.	376.42	35.64
up to 100 000 m ³ /year, incl.	371.77	35.19
up to 200 000 m ³ /year, incl.	367.10	34.75
up to 400 000 m ³ /year, incl.	362.42	34.31
up to 600 000 m ³ /year, incl.	359.66	34.05
up to 800 000 m ³ /year, incl.	357.70	33.86
up to 1 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	356.17	33.72
up to 2 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	351.34	33.26
up to 3 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	348.45	32.99
up to 4 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	346.34	32.79
up to 5 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	344.67	32.63
up to 7 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	342.05	32.38
up to 10 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	339.12	32.10
over 10 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	335.50	31.76
METHANE FILLING STATIONS		
up to 400 000 m ³ /year, incl.	293.50	27.78
up to 1 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	289.72	27.43
over 1 000 000 m ³ /year, incl.	282.55	26.75
METHANE FILLING STATIONS	381.03	36.07

Source: Overgas Networks JSC



Business support policies

According to the Bulgarian legislation, measures for encouraging investments in the country are national and local. To obtain incentives, the potential investor is subject to a certification procedure for the investment project and issuance of an investment certificate, which takes several weeks. Investors can benefit from national incentives after receiving a certificate from the Bulgarian Investment Agency (www.investbg.government.bg).

INCENTIVE MEASURES	INVESTMENT CLASS AND REQUIREMENTS		
	PRIORITY CLASS	CLASS A	CLASS B
	50 MILLION EUR /INVESTMENT AMOUNT/ 50-150 /NEW JOBS/	1-5 MILLION EUR /INVESTMENT AMOUNT/ 25-150 /NEW JOBS/	500 THOUSAND – 2,5 MILLION EUR /INVESTMENT AMOUNT/ 10-100 /NEW JOBS/
SHORTENED ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES	●	●	●
NO TENDERS – NO COMPETITION	●	●	●
FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING	●	●	●
REIMBURSEMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY COSTS	●	●	●
INDIVIDUAL SERVICES	●	●	
FINANCING THE CONSTRUCTION OF TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE	●	●	
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS	●		
NO TAXES WHEN CHANGING LAND STATUS	●		
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT LOWER PRICES	●		
SUBSIDIES FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	●		

Source: Bulgarian Investment Agency



To obtain a Priority Class, Class A or Class B certificate, the investment must be in the industry or services sector, including: high-tech ICT activities; software products; accounting and auditing activities and tax consultancy; research and development; professional activities at headquarters; health care and medical-social care; education; cargo storage and ancillary transport activities; administrative and auxiliary office activities; architectural and engineering activities; technical tests and analyses.

Among the investors in Ruse, certified by the Bulgarian Investment Agency, are big companies in the automotive industry such as Montupet SMLLC and WITTE Automotive Bulgaria SMLLC.

Local incentives are issued by Ruse Municipality under the special regulation for the promotion of investments of municipal significance and the issuance of Class C

certificates. With the issuance of such a certificate, investors receive the following incentives:

- Shorter terms for administrative services
- Individual administrative services provided by the municipal administration
- Acquisition of title or limited rights over real estates over properties that are private municipal property.

According to a survey by the Institute for Market Economics, Ruse District is one of the leading districts in the country in relation to introducing one-stop shop services. Ruse also receives a higher than average for the country assessment of the transparency of the local self-government bodies.

Business support structures are functioning in Ruse - offices of the Bulgarian Industrial Association, the Bulgarian-Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the

Ruse Chamber of Commerce and Industry, business centres and incubators.

In recognition of the high quality of the Municipality's management and its commitment to the European principles of good democratic governance, the quality of the provided public services and good practices in public policy implementation, Ruse Municipality has been awarded twice (in 2013 and 2017) with the "European label for innovation and good governance at local level" of the Council of Europe.

According to the results of the Second Annual Index of the Local Integrity System 2017 of Transparency International Bulgaria, Ruse is ranked among the top municipalities in Bulgaria in all 21 surveyed indicators assessing the availability of sustainable capacity, good management practices and effective interaction between local authorities and local self-government.

For two consecutive years - 2014 and 2015, Ruse was named "Best City to Live In" in a national poll conducted by Darik Radio, Dariknews.bg and the "24 hours" newspaper. On the basis of an expert survey of all district cities in Bulgaria, analysing multiple criteria for defining a city as an attractive place to live, work and relax, Ruse was also awarded the highest prize of the Jury for Most Perspective City in 2016.



INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS ZONES ON THE TERRITORY OF RUSE MUNICIPALITY



Industrial Park – Ruse

Industrial Park – Ruse is located on a plot of 639 decares, near Free Zone - Ruse and the Danube Bridge border checkpoint. It was built by Ruse Municipality, with the financial support and cooperation of the state, in order to attract foreign and Bulgarian investors.

The built technical infrastructure within the park includes a street network connecting the zone to the Ruse-Silistra road; an inner street network serving the terrains of the Industrial Park; gas distribution network; electrical substation "Slatina" 110/20 kV; water supply and sewerage network; cable ducts. A railway line passes nearby. The elements of the technical infrastructure are built up to the boundaries of the individual regulated landed properties.

At the moment in Industrial Park - Ruse are located the plants of companies from the automotive industry such as Montupet SMLLC and WITTE Automotive Bulgaria SMLLC, the factory for production of faience and terracotta tiles of Keros

Bulgaria Solely Owned JSC, as well as the hot-dip galvanizing plant of Balkanzink JSC. Nearby the terrain of the Industrial Park, in the "Slatina" area, is the plant of the metalworking company MBM Metalwork LTD. Several other companies have bought properties with investment intentions to start a production or use of warehouses, among which are the construction company Bulgarian Property Developments SMLLC and the machine parts manufacturer Tamares Industries Bulgaria SMLLC.

Ruse Municipality is owner of two vacant properties on the territory of the park, which are put up for sale. The first one is an unbuilt plot of land with an area of 22 decares. The sale procedure may be initiated upon submission of a written application for investment interest. The sale is made by conducting a public tender under the Municipal Property Act and Ordinance No. 1 on the municipal property of the Municipal Council – Ruse and at an initial auction price determined

by a licensed evaluator after an opinion of the Municipal Property Commission and a decision of the Municipal Council. The property may also be sold without a public tender to an investor designated as Class C investor under Ordinance No 24 on the promotion of municipal investments and the issuance of Class C certificate, as well as following a decision of the Municipal Council.

The second property has an area of 17 decares and four massive buildings are built on it. The sale procedure may be initiated upon submission of a written application for investment interest.

The sale is carried out through a public tender under the Privatization and Post-Privatization Control Act and at an initial auction price determined by a licensed evaluator, following an opinion of the Commission for Privatization and Post-Privatization Control and a decision of the Municipal Council.



Free Zone – Ruse

Free Zone - Ruse Solely Owned JSC is the largest and most developed free zone in Bulgaria, a logistics and industrial centre. It is located on an area of 370 decares, about 800 meters east of the Danube Bridge and in close proximity to the biggest river port of Bulgaria - Port Ruse-East.

A distribution centre for packaging and labelling of textile products, an industrial unit for production of metal vessels for different industries, a production plant for heavy machinery and others operate in Free Zone - Ruse.

One of the terrains acts as a separate customs territory. There are 20 000 sq m open storage areas with hard cover and 25 000 sq m of indoor areas, of which approximately 5 000 sq m of industrial premises, 1 000 sq m of offices and 20 000 sq m of storage space. This territory is governed by all laws of the country, but some customs preferences are given to the storage of non-community goods, with no payment of customs duties and VAT until the moment the goods are on the terrain of the company.

Free Zone - Ruse also has other plots of about 200 thousand sq m, which are not under special regime and can be sold and developed according to the needs of potential investors. There are practically unlimited possibilities for building and operating sites on the part of its clients. The company's infrastructure includes a concrete mixing station and a light

petroleum products depot, its own access routes, roads and railroads, a railway station with four tracks, portal cranes, its own lifting equipment, a car ramp and a quay wall. In Free Zone – Ruse there is built water supply and sewerage, gasification, electrical supply and telecommunications. The zone also has a concrete mixing station of 8 thousand sq m and a light petroleum products depot of 31 264 sq m.

The following activities are carried out on the territory of Free Zone - Ruse: renting; warehousing and storage; reloading operations and clearance of transport and customs documents. The prices for the services are determined according to the current tariff of the company and the prices for purchase of areas in the zone - on the basis of negotiations and certification of potential investors under the Investment Promotion Act and the Regulation for its implementation.

There are two types of standard contracts in Free Zone - Ruse: warehousing and storage of goods in a common indoor or outdoor warehouse and site operation. Services under the first type of contract are invoiced/paid per day only for goods imported into the territory of the company. The occupancy of this type of premises is extremely dynamic. The services of the second type of contract are calculated per month per square meter and are signed by clients of Free Zone - Ruse who carry out production activities on its territory or

those who have certified the warehouses for carrying out activities according to certain normative requirements.

By the beginning of 2018, 90% of the indoor premises in the area were rented, with approximately 50% of them operating as industrial premises, 45% as warehouses and the remaining 5% as offices. The occupancy of open areas is extremely dynamic, as some of them are used for truck parking by the company's customers for which a fee is paid per day. In addition to Bulgarian companies, companies with Austrian, Israeli and American capital operate on the territory of the Zone. The number of persons working in Free Zone - Ruse is over 300.

CONTACT:

Free Zone – Ruse Solely Owned JSC
 №71 "Tutrakan" Blvd, Ruse 7003
 Tel.: +359 82 880 800; +359 82 831 112
trade@freezone-rousse.bg
www.freezone-rousse.bg



Danube Industrial Zone TEGRA

The Danube Industrial Zone TEGRA is situated on an area of 640 decares on the bank of the Danube River. More than 30% of the territory is occupied by administrative and industrial buildings, halls and warehouses. The zone has its own road infrastructure with access control, drinking and industrial water, its own sewage system for household and industrial wastewater, as well as electrical substation.

A port with seven ship berths which can handle all types of cargoes, manufacturing

plants in the field of machine building, metalworking, production of construction equipment, production of vegetable oils, biodiesel, bitumen and fuels are functioning in the industrial zone. On its territory is also situated the only liquefied natural gas terminal in Bulgaria with the possibility for loading to and from ships, ships bunkering, loading to car tanks and fuelling of automobiles with liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Plots, production and warehouse premises as well as administrative offices

in the zone are offered for rent or for sale at competitive prices for the region and the country under the conditions of direct agreement with the owners.

Over 40 companies are active on the territory of the Danube Industrial Zone TEGRA, among them: Bulmarket DM LTD and Polysan JSC, with main activity trading with fuels, TM-Technology JSC - specialised in the production of wholesale and medium-sized metal products, the producer of insulation materials Fibran Bulgaria JSC and others.

Industrial Zones

In Ruse there are two clearly distinct industrial zones - Eastern and Western, where most of the industrial production in the city is concentrated. In the region of the Eastern Industrial Zone, situated along two main boulevards in the city – “Bulgaria” Blvd. and “Tutrakan” Blvd., there are a number of large enterprises, incl. Megachim JSC, Lubrica LTD, Toplofikatsia Ruse Solely Owned JSC, Preciz Al Energy SMLLC, Marisan & Kolev JSC and others. In the Western Industrial Zone are situated the production facilities of Orgachim JSC, Prista Oil Holding Solely Owned JSC, Zhiti JSC, Fazan JSC, Irin SMLLC, Ergodesign

LTD, Vinprom Rousse JSC, Bozmov SMLLC and others.

Ruse Municipality offers two terrains in the industrial zones of the city for sale to potential investors. The larger property is located in the Eastern Industrial Zone on the international boulevard “Bulgaria” and has an area of about 164 decares. The other plot has an area of 44 decares and is located in the Western Industrial Zone, near the I-5 “Ruse-Veliko Tarnovo” national road. The sale procedure is the same for both properties and can be initiated after submitting a written application for investment interest. The

sale is carried out through a public tender under the Municipal Property Act and Ordinance No.1 on the municipal property of Municipal Council – Ruse and at an initial auction price determined by a licensed evaluator after an opinion of the Municipal Property Commission and a decision of the Municipal Council. The properties may also be sold without a public tender to an investor designated as Class C investor under Ordinance No.24 on the promotion of municipal investments and the issuance of Class C certificate, as well as following a decision of the Municipal Council.



Business Park – Ruse

Business Park – Ruse is located on two of the main boulevards in the city – “Lipnik” Blvd. and “Potsdam” Blvd., which connect the Business Park with the centre of the city and the ring-road and this assures an easy and fast access to all points of the city. Business Park - Ruse is the first of its kind project for building first class office spaces in Ruse. The complex consists of 4 buildings located on plots with a total area of 26 000 sq m.

A total of BGN 28 million were invested to build Business Park – Ruse. The total built-up area of the complex is 34 thousand sq m from which 27 thousand sq m are in the 3 buildings put into operation:

- Building A and Building B, which are designated for and used as offices and commercial spaces
- City Med is a building for prehospital care, with doctors’ offices, laboratories, diagnostic imaging procedure sector, pharmacy, etc.
- An underground parking with an area of 7 500 sq m and over 500 parking spaces.

Building C, with a total built-up area of 7 500 sq m has Act 14 Certificate, which allows for quick adaptation of the building for different needs, including industrial ones.

There are 2 500 sq m of free space available for offices in building B. The rental price for office space is 4.5 + 1 EUR/sq m, VAT excluded, with the maintenance fee for the common parts and adjacent terrains, amounting to 1 EUR/sq m.

The lessees in Business Park - Ruse are over 80 and they work in the fields of telecommunications, IT, co-location, chemical and oil industry, construction, finance and banking, trade, furniture, agriculture and health. Among them are companies such as Lubrica LTD, Overgas Networks JSC, UniCredit Bulbank JSC, Kammarton Bulgaria SMLLC, Regiocom GmbH Bulgaria Branch, Coca Cola Hellenic Bottling Company Bulgaria JSC, Hilti Bulgaria SMLLC and others.

Business Park - Ruse offers its clients the following services:

- Full technical maintenance of leased areas
- Security services on the entire territory of the park and the common parts of the buildings
- Repair, maintenance, cleaning, lighting, snow cleaning, sanding and traffic regulation for all parking lots
- Landscaping, maintenance and renovation of all plantations and green areas
- Prevention and maintenance and spare parts for all common installations such as central and local heating, air conditioning, electrical installation and water supply systems
- Prevention and maintenance of the street lighting system
- Removal of municipal waste (excluding industrial waste)
- Cleaning of the common parts of the park.



CONTACT:
Business Park – Ruse
123 “Lipnik” Blvd., 7000 Ruse
office@iris.bg
www.bpr.bg



Logistics Park – BPD Ruse

Logistics Park - BPD Ruse is a large-scale development, providing logistics, industrial and office spaces, built in accordance with international quality standards. The park is located in the new industrial zone of Ruse (area "Slatina") and is built on a terrain of nearly 54 decares. It has a strategic location – one kilometer away from Danube Bridge, close to port Ruse-East and Free Zone – Ruse, and only 3 km away from the city centre.

The investment plans include a complete reconstruction and development of the territory, and for this purpose, modern industrial premises are being built. The park has a total built-up area of 14 000 sq m and has a service area, a reception area and warehouses, each with an approximate area of 1 350 sq m and 2 landing stages equipped with mechanical levelers and gaskets for rear unloading of heavy goods vehicles. Both ramps have direct ramps for truck access to the storage level.

- **Property area: 53 676 sq m**
- **Phase I Total built-up area: 13 826 sq m, completed in October 2012**
- **Warehouse units starting from 1 383 sq m**
- **Phase II Total built-up area: 8 300 sq m to be implemented**

The key advantages are the clear logistical concept thanks to which the movement in the park is maximally facilitated, the excellent performance, the optimum racking equipment layout and the flexibility of the office space.

- Excellent national and regional transport connections
- Established logistics location with all transport links available in close proximity
- Frequent public transport links the park with the city centre
- Built-to-suit and custom solutions
- Ready-to-use premises and administrative offices
- Developed infrastructure and modern equipment and facilities
- Professional full time on-site management team
- Competitive prices with flexible lease terms
- Logistic service under flexible price conditions
- Professional facilities and warehouse equipment
- Warehouse and office space for rent
- Pallet storage per day
- 24-hour security, video surveillance and access control

As of March 2018, the park has nearly 90% occupancy. The two key tenants in the park are leaders in the field of logistics services and fast-moving consumer goods. 2 996 sq m storage areas with offices are leased to tenants, while another 10 880 sq m are operated by the internal logistics team of Logistics Park – BPD Ruse: pallet storage, combined with high-quality integrated logistics services.

The mix of tenants is dominated by companies whose business requires larger

warehouse space. For this purpose, the building is designed in such a way that the large warehouses prevail, with the smallest areas for lease having the size of 1 300 sq m.

Up to now, approximately EUR 1.5 million have been invested in Logistics Park - BPD Ruse for the acquisition of land and another EUR 3.5 million for the construction of the building, infrastructure and common areas. EUR 350 000 were invested in racking equipment and logistics equipment. The park's potential for future development is the construction of new 8 300 sq m of warehouse and logistics space, and the new investment is expected to be around EUR 3.5 million.



CONTACT:
 Industrial zone
 №6 "Slatinska" Str, 7009 Ruse
 Tel.: +359 2 868 13 74
 bg@bpdplc.com
 www.bpdplc.com



PORTS

Ruse is the largest Bulgarian port along the Danube. Here is situated the headquarters of Bulgarian River Shipping JSC - one of the most prestigious and established transport companies on the Danube transport market. The company serves the freight traffic of the Danube countries and the transit between Western and Eastern Europe, from Sulina and Constanta on the Black Sea to Mainz on the Rhine.

Ports of national, regional and special use are located on the Ruse coastline. Port Complex - Ruse Solely Owned JSC is a state-owned commercial company with a place of management in Ruse, which manages the activities of several of the main Bulgarian river ports, incl. Port Ruse. Port Pristis LTD - Ruse is the concessionaire of public transport port of regional importance "Pristis". Double W Co - LTD, Bulmarket DM LTD, River Service SMLLC and others also have ports.

PORT/TERMINAL PARAMETERS							
TITLE	TOTAL AREA (sq m)	SHIP BERTHS (pc.)	SHIP BERTHS TOTAL LENGTH (m)	SHIP BERTHS MAXIMUM DEPTH (m)	OPEN WAREHOUSE AREA (sq m)	CLOSED WAREHOUSE AREA (sq m)	VOLUME OF LIQUID CARGO STORAGE (sq m)
PORT TERMINALS OF A PUBLIC TRANSPORT PORT OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE RUSE							
RUSE-WEST	117 098	12	1 395	2.5	27 600	8 900	N/A
RUSE-CENTRE	11 799	3	270	2.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
RUSE-EAST*	825 533	14	1 490	2.5	190 500	15 800	N/A
PUBLIC TRANSPORT PORTS OF REGIONAL IMPORTANCE							
PRISTIS	32 626	11	1 100	2.5	485	N/A	80
DANUBE DREDGING FLEET - RUSE	192 303	3	280	5/5.4	10 000	N/A	N/A
DOUBLE W CO - RUSE	4 543	1	135	3	1 500	НЯМА	N/A
RUSE - DUTY FREE ZONE	31 264	1	100	8	НЯМА	НЯМА	40 000
PORT BULMARKET - RUSE	37 645	7	825	2.6	15 000	13 774	N/A
RUSE - ARBIS CRUDE OIL TERMINAL	17 744	1	110	2.6	N/A	НЯМА	6 000
PORTS WITH SPECIAL PURPOSE							
RIVER SERVICE - RUSE	3 228	1	70	3.6	N/A	232	N/A
RUSE SHIPYARD WEST	17 513	2	605	2.5	3 000	2 414	N/A
EXECUTIVE AGENCY FOR EXPLORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE DANUBE RIVER	21 633	4	540	2.5	1 200	535 104	N/A

Source: Maritime Administration Agency, Directorate "River supervision - Ruse"

* Port terminal Ruse-East part of public transport port of national importance Ruse is divided into two terminals, which are in the process of receiving first Certificate of operational suitability.



BIG INVESTORS AND EMPLOYERS IN RUSE MUNICIPALITY

MACHINE BUILDING, METALWORKING, METALLURGY



- Montupet SMLLC
- Dunarit JSC
- WITTE Automotive Bulgaria SMLLC
- Express Service LTD
- Construction Tools SMLLC
- Balkanzinc JSC
- Zhiti JSC
- Megaprofil IG SMLLC
- MBM Metalwork LTD
- Sparky JSC
- A.L. Filter SMLLC
- TM-Technology JSC
- Forez BG SMLLC

ELECTRONIC INDUSTRY



- SET JSC
- Naiden Kirov JSC

FREIGHT FORWARDING, TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS



- Econt Express LTD
- Holleman Bulgaria LTD
- Danube dredging fleet JSC Ruse
- Rubiships LTD
- Rubicon Shipping SMLLC
- Logistics Park – BPD Ruse
- Double W Co LTD

FAIENCE, TERRACOTTA AND GRANITOGRES, BUILDING MATERIALS



- Artistika LTD
- Keros Bulgaria Solely Owned JSC
- Trud JSC
- Fibran Bulgaria JSC
- Preciz AI Energy SMLLC

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY



- Bulmarket DM LTD
- Ekon-91 LTD
- Prista Oil Holding Solely Owned JSC
- Megachim JSC
- Orgachim JSC
- Marisan & Kolev JSC
- Lubrica LTD
- Ninachim SMLLC
- Polysan JSC

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES



- Medical centres Medica
- University Multi-Profile Hospital for Active Treatment KANEFF

FOOD INDUSTRY



- Borimes LTD
- Bozmov SMLLC
- Mesokombinat Ruse JSC
- Vinprom Rousse JSC
- Zahar-Bio JSC
- Coca Cola Hellenic Bottling Company Bulgaria JSC

FURNITURE MANUFACTURING



- IRIM SMLLC
- Gold-Apolo LTD
- Ergodesign LTD
- Stefany Style SMLLC
- Dominex Pro SMLLC

TEXTILE AND READY-MADE GARMENTS



- Richmart SMLLC
- Iris JSC
- Ariston-S LTD
- BTB Bulgaria JSC
- Antoan Vill SMLLC
- Arda-Ruse LTD
- Danini Fashion SMLLC
- Delta Textile Bulgaria SMLLC
- Markam Fashion SMLLC
- Fazan JSC
- Arev-Premier LTD

PRINTING ACTIVITIES



- Dunav press JSC
- Multicommerce SMLLC

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES



- Data Sis SMLLC
- Multilink LTD
- Musala Soft JSC
- Networx-Bulgaria SMLLC
- NBI Systems LTD
- Sirma Solutions JSC

INVESTMENTS IN PERSPECTIVE

IT&ICT Industry

For several years, Ruse has been strengthening its image as a preferred destination for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) companies. Excellent prospects for growth are determined by strong traditions in education (competitive university and mathematics secondary school), proximity to the Romanian border and the capital Bucharest, international partnerships and an already existing large network of small, medium and large IT companies with offices in the city of Ruse. Among them are Musala Soft JSC, Sirma Solutions JSC, Networx-Bulgaria SMLLC, Multilink LTD and others.

Most schools in Ruse offer training in mathematics, informatics and information technology. Students who graduate with similar profiles acquire specialized knowledge in office applications, computer networks, computer graphics and animation, web programming, multimedia presentations and more. For its part, the University of Ruse works actively with IT companies and conducts student traineeships in a real business environment, trainings, project work, specialized seminars, etc.

As a result of the dynamics in the IT & ICT sector, Ruse is one of the two Bulgarian cities with the highest salary increases of software specialists for the period 2008-2013. The growth of 69% in Ruse exceeds the country average of 57%.

The trend for creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem that supports the development of the ICT sector and the IT community in the city is tangible.

Annually, since 2016, Ruse – Free Spirit City Municipal Foundation (www.free-spirit-city.eu), in partnership with Econt Foundation (www.econt.com), announces a competition for projects in the field of history, science, education and new technologies under the motto “Knowledge and Growth”. So far a number of initiatives have been implemented, including hackathons, digital skills workshops, mentoring programmes, prototype development programmes, etc.

StartUp Factory Association has been functioning since 2015, with its mission being to support start-up entrepreneurs and build key IT skills.

In 2016 Ruse received a nomination for “Outsourcing City of the Year” by the Bulgarian Outsourcing Association. The nomination is a recognition for the creation of a favourable business environment for ensuring growth in the ICT and outsourcing sectors in Ruse Municipality.



Automotive Industry

The automotive industry is one of the priority sectors in the national economy for attracting foreign investments. Foreign companies active in this field show a particular interest in Ruse and the region. The concentration of enterprises for manufacture and assembly of automobile components on the territory of Ruse Municipality creates excellent conditions for additional investments and expansion of existing production capacities. In this way, the automotive sector is gradually becoming a determinant of the structure of the local economy.

WITTE Automotive Bulgaria SMLLC is one of the leading investors in Ruse Municipality. In 2014, the company for manufacture and assembly of automotive parts opened a modernised 15 000 sq m administrative and production building, including logistics infrastructure. In 2018 the production and logistics areas are expanding by nearly 11 000 sq m. At the beginning of 2018 WITTE Automotive Bulgaria SMLLC received Investment Class A.

Montupet SMLLC is an industrial group specialised in the manufacture of aluminium products for the automotive industry.

The plant has three production halls in which cylinder heads and bearers are made for world-renowned automotive constructors. The company has increased its investments in the Ruse plant and has been awarded First Class Producer Award.

In 2017, MBM Metalwork LTD also expanded its production. In this way, the company improves its production capacity by 16% and its export potential by 28%. It works with international companies covering a wide range of sectors: automotive, motorcycle manufacture, household electrical appliances, furniture and more. A.L. Filter SMLLC has many years of experience in manufacturing the full range of automotive filters. The company owns a production base in Ruse.

Investors from Hungary, Italy, Sweden and other European countries have stated investment intentions and willingness to settle on the territory of Ruse Municipality. In 2017, the Czech leader in the production of complex molds and dies for the automotive industry opened in Ruse its subsidiary – Forez BG SMLLC, with an investment of nearly EUR 1 million.



Ruse Airport

Ruse Airport is located in the village of Shtraklevo, only 17 km away from Ruse.

The facility was opened in 1967 as a military airport and a training facility for the Bulgarian Air Force. The airport operated with such status until 1998. During this period, it was used for both military and civilian flights. Since 2015 100% of the property has been transferred to Ruse Municipality and since 2016 it has been licensed as a flying field for small aircrafts.

The airport covers an area of 183 ha. The concrete runway is 2.5 km long and 50 m wide. Part of the airport infrastructure are 11 taxiways and taxilanes. There are three platforms. The airport has its own passenger terminal. It was built in 1976 and it has been used for domestic and international charter flights. There is also an air traffic control tower on the territory of Ruse Airport. The warehouse building is 900 sq m.

The airport has passenger and freight areas which can be operated independently



from each other. Additionally, the airport can be expanded as there are 3 free plots with an area of 150 ha.

There is an opportunity to combine four modes of freight transport, and freight transport can be accompanied by passenger transport activity. The property can be used for both aeronautical purposes (e.g. pilot school and aircraft service), as well as for commercial purposes (office parks, logistics centre, storage spaces).

DISTANCE FROM THE AIRPORT TO:

Danube Bridge (Bulgarian-Romanian border)	20 km
Ruse Centre	15 km
Port Ruse	11 km
Railway line Ruse-Varna (connection to the Black Sea)	6 km



Investment project for intermodal terminal

Free Zone – Ruse Solely Owned JSC has an investment project and envisages a partnership search for the construction of an intermodal terminal with a total area of about 40 thousand sq m for transshipment of different types of general cargoes.

The investment proposal aims to build a combined terminal on the Lower Danube for indoor transshipment of different types of cargo, transshipment of containers and trucks (ro-ro).

Port capacity will allow simultaneous servicing of two cargo ships, as well as direct transshipment from river to river-sea vessels. Overloading will be carried out by bridge cranes with a lifting capacity of 25 tons. It is also possible to add extra cranes in case of increased work volumes.

3 types of transshipment activities:

- Ship - Truck
- Ship - Railway composition
- Ship - Ship

The implementation of the project for the construction of the intermodal terminal will close the full cycle of services offered by Free Zone - Ruse Solely Owned JSC.



Arena Ruse

The “Arena Ruse” project envisages the creation of a multifunctional complex comprising several types of areas for different purposes:

- **Office building Business Arena Ruse**
- **Shopping centre Shopping Arena Ruse**
- **Hotel part**
- **Multifunctional hall, functioning since July 2015.**

The complex is situated in a very communicative location in Ruse - on a central boulevard, with easy access by car and public transport, within walking distance of the central part of the city. The Multifunctional hall has been

named “Arena Monbat Ruse” since July 2018 (www.arenamonbat.com). It was opened in 2015 as the most modern and functionally-oriented facility in Bulgaria for hosting international, national and regional sporting, business and entertainment events. Its construction is an example of a successful partnership between a local authority and a private investor. The hall has 5 100 seats, 1 200 seating and 3 000 standing places for concerts, ad 1 100 parking spaces in an underground parking.

Business Arena Ruse will be a business building offering the highest quality offices - class A, with opportunities for developing software, IT and outsourcing

companies, call centres and more. It is designed and planned according to modern trends in architecture and construction. The total built-up area of the building is 15 214 sq m, it has 16 floors, 227 parking spaces located in an underground parking are part of the business area. The project provides for conference halls and dining areas.

Shopping Arena Ruse will be a shopping centre with a gross leasable area of 17 700 sq m. It will offer shopping opportunities but also entertainment, incl. shops, a museum, a gallery of modern art, cinema, restaurants, cafes, a children’s centre and a playground. 1 000 parking spaces are planned.



CULTURE AND TOURISM

Ruse is a free spirit city!

Ruse is a city with a centuries-old history. It is a centre and a crossroads of different influences.

The origins of the modern city of Ruse date back to more than 23 centuries ago with the creation of an ancient harbour of the ancient Thracians. At the end of the 1st century, the Roman fortress, Sexaginta Prista (from Latin Sexaginta Prista – “Port of 60 ships”), became part of the Roman Danube Limes, the Northern boundary of the Empire. In the Middle Ages, the town existed as one settlement along with the present-day Romanian town of Giurgiu. Since the beginning of the 17th century Ruse has developed as a trade centre, its port is particularly important for the trade between Central Europe and the Balkans. In the 1860^s the town, then Ruschuk, became the capital of the Danube Province in the Ottoman Empire, with a territory

the size of today's Bulgaria. The first industrial enterprises, the railway line, were built. The history of Ruse is related to the names of the national heroes of the Bulgarian Revival. Numerous premieres of Modernity in Bulgaria took place in Ruse, ranking it among the most important cultural and historical centres in the country. The cosmopolitan spirit of the city from the beginning of the 20th century comes to life in the work of the Ruse-born humanist Elias Canetti, the only Nobel Prize laureate of Bulgarian origin. “Everything I experienced later had already happened in Ruschuk”, Canetti recalls.

Today Ruse welcomes its guests with a diverse cultural calendar and impresses them with a rich cultural-historical and architectural heritage. More than 260 cultural monuments and dozens of sites

designated “European cultural heritage” are the fruit of the enterprising and European spirit of the citizens of Ruse who attracted prominent European architects and builders in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century to create an urban architectural environment without analogue in Bulgaria. The emblematic “Profit-yielding building” and the Monument of Liberty at the central city square evoke admiration. Therefore, the city is still dubbed “Little Vienna”.

The presence of authoritative cultural organizations and institutes such as “Sava Ognyanov” Drama Theatre, State Opera - Ruse, “Lyuben Karavelov” Regional Library, Regional Historical Museum, Ruse Art Gallery, State Puppet Theatre, Club of Cultural Activists, Municipal Youth House and others contributes to the cultural and creative dynamics of the city.

As a leading cultural centre and a recognisable tourist destination in the Danube region, Ruse Municipality has been selected as the thematic leader in sector “Culture” at the Council of Danube Cities and Regions, together with Ulm, Germany.



The exciting stories Ruse tells make the region an attractive place for tourism. The city of Ruse is characterised by a concentration of hotels, restaurants and cultural attractions, which are missing in a radius of 150 km. 73 are the registered accommodation establishments with categorisation 1-4 stars. Over 70 dining places offer a variety of local, traditional Bulgarian and foreign cuisine. Every year Ruse Municipality organises the “Danube Limes” contest to stimulate the improvement of the quality of the tourist supply.

Ruse is a recognisable destination for cruise tourism. Every year, thousands of tourists, mainly from the United States and Western Europe, land on the Danube

coast in Ruse and explore the city, which preserves the common European heritage, but also has its own style and character. Every year the number of cruise ships arriving in Ruse increases, as well as the number of foreign tourists and nights spent here. Dunav Tours JSC, based in Ruse, is the only Bulgarian shipowner to conduct European river cruise tourism. Another leading company in the field of cruise tourism is A.N. Balkantours SMLLC. A Tourist Information Centre operates in Ruse to provide advice and guide the tourists.

In the immediate vicinity of Ruse are situated the following UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Rock-hewn Churches of Ivanovo, Srebarna Nature Reserve,

Thracian tomb near the village of Sveshtari, Veliko Tarnovo and Arbanasi. Several kilometres away is located the rock monastery “St. Dimitar Basarbovski”. The unique natural features of the Danube coastline and the preserved biodiversity in Rusenski Lom Nature Park are additional attractions for active tourists and travellers.

In 2016, Ruse Municipality won the prize in the category “Municipality for Cultural and Historical Tourism” in the “Annual Tourism Awards” competition organised by the Ministry of Tourism for the first time.

In 2017, Ruse was awarded by the Bulgarian Hotel and Restaurant Association with a prize for “Best Marketing Positioning and New Tourist Attractions”.



RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Today, Ruse is living, inspiring and young!

Numerous festivals and events turn the city into an all year round open stage for creating and sharing culture, creativity and entertainment.

There are diverse opportunities for leisure-time activities, but the accents in the cultural calendar of the city attract the attention of the residents and the guests of the city. The “March Music Days” International Festival has long-standing traditions in attracting artists from the European and world stage. Every summer, the Danube quay becomes a sand sculptures alley, and in the winter the city is enchanted by the art of ice sculpting. The most colourful event is undoubtedly the traditional Ruse Carnival, with its rhythm taking over the whole city for one

day in the year. Youth Festival “Music and Colours”, 3D Street Art Festival, Vintage Vehicles Parade, Green Rock Fest and many other fascinating events offer excitement for the residents and guests of the Danube city.

In Ruse there are many museums that tell of the legacy of the long history of the city and the region: Regional Historical Museum – Ruse with open air exhibitions (Sexaginta Prista and Medieval town of Cherven), Pantheon of the National Revival Heroes, Museum of Urban Life, Baba Tonka House Museum and Zahari Stoyanov House Museum, Ecomuseum with aquarium and others.

On the territory of Ruse Municipality, there is a variety of attractive recreation

areas. Forest Park “Lipnik” near the village of Nikolovo is popular among the citizens of Ruse as an area for relaxation and recreation during weekends. There is a lake and opportunities for fishing, boat trips, outdoor sports and picnics. “Hizha Prista” park zone and the two city parks – the Youth Park and the Park of the National Revival Heroes are also a favourite choice of locals. 20 km away from Ruse is one of the nature parks in Bulgaria - “Rusenski Lom”.

Along the Danube coast runs one of the 15 cycle routes that connect cyclists in Europe - EuroVelo 6.

10 REASONS, WHY RUSE IS A GOOD PLACE FOR INVESTMENT



Nº1

**THE DANUBE
CAPITAL OF BULGARIA:**
*the biggest Bulgarian
river port*



Nº2

*It is part of the largest cross-
border agglomeration in the
Bulgarian-Romanian region
RUSE-GIURGIU-BUCHAREST*



Nº3

*Opportunity
for access through
**ALL MODES
OF TRANSPORT***



Nº4

**WELL-DEVELOPED
EDUCATIONAL
SYSTEM:** *schools
with mathematics and
foreign language profile,
professional secondary
schools*



Nº5

RUSE UNIVERSITY
*with traditions in
technical sciences*



Nº6

*Established
**INDUSTRIAL
PROFILE***



Nº7

*Low level of
**LOCAL TAXES
AND FEES***



Nº8

*Local
**BUSINESS SUPPORT
POLICIES***



Nº9

*Diverse
**CULTURAL
CALENDAR***



Nº10

*Opportunities for
**RECREATION AND
ENTERTAINMENT***

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Cluster APCAS, Free zone – Ruse, Danube Industrial Zone TEGRA,
Business Park – Ruse, Logistics Park – BPD Ruse, Arena Ruse

Scan the QR code with your smartphone
and enjoy the video presentation
of Ruse - Free Spirit City!





**RUSE -
FREE SPIRIT
CITY**