

## KEY FACTS

**Official name:** Republika Makedonija (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) (FYROM)

**Head of State:** President Gjorgje Ivanov (VMRO-DPMNE) (from 12 May 2009)

**Head of government:** Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski (from 2006; re-elected 5 Jun 2011)

**Ruling party:** Coalition, led by Vnatrešno-Makedonska Revolucionarna Organizacija-Demokratska Partija za Makedonsko Nacionalno Edinstvo (VMRO-DPMNE) (Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity) (from 2006; re-elected 5 Jun 2011)

**Area:** 25,713 square km

**Population:** 2.07 million (2012)\*

**Capital:** Skopje

**Official language:** Macedonian and Albanian.

**Currency:** Macedonian denar (Md) = 100 deni

**Exchange rate:** Md46.45 per US\$ (Jul 2013); (pegged to the euro; trades around Md60 per euro)

**GDP per capita:** US\$4,683 (2012)\*

**GDP real growth:** -0.27% (2012)\*

**GDP:** US\$9.68 billion (2012)\*

**Labour force:** 948,000 (2012)\*

**Unemployment:** 31.30% (2012)\*

**Inflation:** 3.31% (2012)\*

**Balance of trade:** -US\$2.62 billion (2012)\*

\* estimated figure

# Macedonia



In 2013 Macedonia's unwanted status of being the longest running EU accession candidate in the western Balkans looked set to continue. In October 2012, for the fifth successive year in a row, the European Commission had urged the opening of accession talks with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRM). However, given the political turmoil seen in 2012 and the genuine concerns about media freedom in the country, it was too simple to ascribe the continuing failure of EU member states to agree the recommendation and set a date for the talks on their country's name to the dispute with Greece.

Macedonia is landlocked in the middle of former Yugoslavia, and between January and March 2012 this tiny country had found itself smitten with inter-communal violence of a kind that had not been seen for a decade or so. For uncertain – but possibly ethnic reasons – a Macedonian policeman killed two Albanians in a street altercation. A village carnival in which, tactlessly, both Muslims and Greeks were mocked, triggered an angry riposte from both sides. Many Macedonians did not

really consider that their country was progressing satisfactorily. Their perception was that not much would change until Macedonia resolved its two decade-long disagreement with neighbouring Greece, which continued to insist that Macedonia's very name implied a territorial claim to the Greek region of the same name. This falling out has blocked Macedonia's accession to both NATO and the European Union.

The likelihood of the name dispute being resolved quickly was, even optimistically, remote. Crisis torn Greece had fatter fish to fry and after the UN's 20 year failure to resolve the conflict, it was unlikely that the answer lay there. In any event, bilateral issues were not supposed to be brought in to the EU enlargement process. The EU's so-called neighbourhood policy commissioner, Štefan Füle had – rather optimistically – gone on record that the naming issue could 'be resolved in the early phase of talks, allowing them to start first'.

## Census troubles

On the 2012 Transparency International *Corruption Perceptions Index*, Macedonia

ranked 69 out of the 177 countries surveyed, level with Brazil and South Africa. One area where fears of corruption continued to be raised, was that of the national census. The opposition Socijaldemokratski savez na Makedonija (SDSM) (Social Democratic Union of Macedonia) had accused the government of deliberately failing to set aside funds for a nationwide census. According to the SDMS the government of Nikola Gruevski had an interest in concealing non-existent or deceased voters on the electoral roll, which the SDSM alleged were used to distort election results in the government's favour. Making public the allegations, the SDSM's vice president, Radmila Sekerinska, said that 'The government does not want a census because the results will show that the electoral roll is not credible.' Ms Sekerinska insisted an accurate headcount would undermine the legitimacy of several past elections that had been won by the ruling Vnatrešno-Makedonska Revolucionarna Organizacija-Demokratska Partija za Makedonsko Nacionalno Edintsvo (VMRO-DPMNE) (Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity) party. As the elections approach, the government insisted it has already cleaned up the electoral roll, ahead of the March 2014 presidential elections. In the face of the opposition allegations the government could only stick to its guns; proving that the electoral roll had been cleaned up was virtually impossible. Several Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) election monitoring missions had recommended a thorough check-up of the roll.

In 2011 it had been ethnic disputes, not the state of the electoral roll, that had been the main reasons for abandoning the headcount that had already been under way. Ethnic Albanian parties, among others, claimed that the Macedonian majority on the census commission had arranged the criteria with the objective of lowering the real number of Albanians in the country. The government of Nikola Gruevski then declared the census annulled, not before the national census commission had tendered its collective resignation.

Macedonia had not had a population census since 2002, one year after the signing of the 2001 Ohrid Peace Accord, which ended a short-lived armed conflict with ethnic Albanian insurgents. The results of the 2002 census showed that 64 per cent of the population was Macedonian and 25 per cent were ethnic

Albanian. Roma, Turks, Serbs and other minorities made up the rest.

### The economy

According to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Macedonia's efforts to improve the business environment and attract foreign investment have been stepped up. Macedonia's latest ranking on the 2012 World Bank's *Doing Business Index* was impressive and some major investors were showing interest, but important business climate issues such as judicial reform and corruption remain to be fully addressed.

The EBRD noted that macro-economic stability had been preserved. Gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2011 was close to three per cent and inflation and the government deficit were at low levels; nevertheless a clear slow-down was evident in the early months of 2012. Privatisation of some of the remaining state-owned assets was proving difficult. The failure over the past year of the state's efforts to sell some major companies highlights both the stringent tender conditions in some cases and the difficulties of offloading state-owned shares in the present climate.

The economy was less affected by the global economic and financial crisis than many regional peers but the impact of the euro-zone crisis had been felt strongly in 2012. With a GDP growth rate of 2.9 per cent, Macedonia was among the strongest performing South Eastern Europe (SEE) economies in 2011. However, the impact

from the euro-zone crisis began to be felt in the second half of the year and a significant slow-down has followed since. In the first half of 2012, the economy contracted on a year-on-year basis on account of the weaker export demand as well as the impact of lower foreign direct investment (FDI) and reduced remittance inflows on domestic demand. Inflation stayed relatively low in 2011 and in the first half of 2012, but it then accelerated, reaching 5.3 per cent year-on-year in September 2012. This was a temporary rise caused by rising food prices as well as increases in pensions and the introduction of a minimum wage. The currency remains pegged to the euro and Macedonia's international reserves were at relatively comfortable levels of 114 per cent of short-term debt and about four months of imports at the end of 2012.

Fiscal targets were met, but arrears were present. Given the currency peg to the euro and the limited sources of external funding, the government has implemented relatively tight fiscal policy. Over the previous two years the government had maintained the budget deficit within the targeted 2.5 per cent of GDP on a cash basis; in 2013 it is likely to reach 3.5 per cent of GDP. The government is taking measures to clear part of the accumulated budgetary arrears and delayed value added tax (VAT) refunds. In 2011 the government drew on the precautionary credit line (PCL) from the IMF to finance expenditures. The second review of the PCL was not

| KEY INDICATORS            |          | Macedonia |          |          |          |           |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
|                           | Unit     | 2008      | 2009     | 2010     | 2011     | 2012      |
| Population                | m        | 2.05      | 2.05     | 2.06     | *2.06    | *2.07     |
| Gross domestic minus gold | US\$bn   | 9.60      | 9.20     | 9.10     | 10.30    | *9.68     |
| GDP per capita            | US\$     | 4,658     | 4,482    | 4,431    | 5,016    | *4,683    |
| GDP real growth           | %        | 5.0       | -0.9     | 1.8      | 3.0      | *-0.3     |
| Inflation                 | %        | 8.3       | -0.8     | 1.5      | 3.9      | *3.3      |
| Unemployment              | %        | 33.8      | 32.2     | 32.1     | 31.2     | *31.3     |
| Industrial output         | % change | 6.7       | -7.6     | 0.8      | -        | -         |
| Agricultural output       | % change | 7.0       | 2.7      | 4.4      | -        | -         |
| Exports (fob) (goods)     | US\$m    | 3,970.9   | 2,685.5  | 3,295.6  | 3,299.1  | *2,958.1  |
| Imports (fob) (goods)     | US\$m    | 6,522.7   | 4,842.3  | 5,241.0  | 5,998.4  | *5,577.6  |
| Balance of trade          | US\$m    | -2,551.8  | -2,156.9 | -1,945.4 | -2,699.3 | *-2,619.5 |
| Current account           | US\$m    | -1,252.0  | -645.6   | -261.8   | -310.6   | *-375.0   |
| Total reserves minus gold | US\$m    | 1,920.3   | 2,050.9  | 1,970.0  | 2,539.8  | *2,528.2  |
| Foreign exchange          | US\$m    | 1,918.9   | 1,959.8  | 1,968.8  | 2,538.1  | *2,526.6  |
| Exchange rate             | per US\$ | 41.86     | 44.10    | 46.48    | 43.78    | 47.44     |
| * estimated figure        |          |           |          |          |          |           |

completed, mainly because of IMF concerns about the arrears problem. The PCL was now dormant and was due to expire formally in January 2013.

The euro-zone's difficulties would continue to dampen growth prospects in 2013. Following the contraction in the first half of the year and in the light of continuing weakness in the euro-zone, only a modest recovery was likely to occur in 2013, to around 2 per cent. A pick-up in growth is expected in the medium term, as the regional economy recovers and as Macedonia reaps the benefit of sustained macro-economic stability and investor friendly reforms introduced in recent years.

## Risk assessment

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Politics           | Fair |
| Economy            | Fair |
| Regional stability | Fair |

## COUNTRY PROFILE

### Historical profile

1371 The Ottoman Turks conquered the area and retained control until the nineteenth century.

1893 The Vnatrešno-Makedonska Revoluciona Organizacija (VMRO) (Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation) was founded to gain independence from the Ottoman Empire.

1912–13 During the Balkan conflicts, the Turks were driven out and the area was divided between Serbia and Greece, with a small section being retained by Bulgaria.

1918 Macedonia became part of the new Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes along with parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, parts of Dalmatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slavonia and Slovenia.

1929 The Kingdom was renamed Yugoslavia.

1941–45 Macedonia was occupied by Bulgaria, under German direction. The Partisans, led by Josip Broz Tito – also leader of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia (CPY) – eventually liberated the whole of Yugoslavia.

1945 Following the end of the Second World War, Macedonia became one of the constituent republics of a federated Yugoslavia. Tito assumed power and a Soviet-style constitution was adopted. The other republics were Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Serbia and the two autonomous regions of Vojvodina and Kosovo.

1953 Constitutions adopted in 1953, 1963 and 1974 increased the autonomy extended to the constituent republics.

1990 Following the collapse of communism in Yugoslavia, Macedonia held its

first multi-party elections and the VMRO became the largest party in parliament.

1991 The first multi-party National Assembly was officially constituted. After a referendum in which the people voted overwhelmingly in favour of Macedonian sovereignty and independence, Macedonia declared its independence.

1992 Kiro Gligorov, the former communist leader, was elected president. A new currency, the denar, was adopted on 26 April.

1993 Greece showed consternation over Macedonia's choice of name and flag which the Greek government argued were a claim on its northern province of Macedonia. To accommodate Greek concerns, Macedonia eventually agreed to join the UN with the temporary prefix of 'Former Yugoslav Republic (of Macedonia) (FYROM)' and an alternative national flag design was introduced.

1994 Kiro Gligorov was re-elected president. Greece imposed a partial trade embargo on Macedonia.

1995 An accord resulting in a normalisation of relations between Greece and Macedonia ensured that Macedonians had access to the northern Greek port of Thessaloniki, their nearest outlet to the sea.

1998 A coalition government under the leadership of Ljubco Georgievski was formed after elections.

1999 Amid accusations of electoral irregularities from the opposition, Boris Trajkovski of the Vnatrešno-Makedonska Revoluciona Organizacija-Demokratska Partija za Makedonsko Nacionalno Edinstvo (VMRO-DPMNE) (Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity) was elected president.

2000 A coalition government was formed, led by Prime Minister Georgievski.

2001 Ethnic Albanian guerrillas and police clashed in Tetovo and other parts of Macedonia. A cease-fire was brokered and a NATO force was sent to Macedonia to supervise the collection of arms handed in by ethnic Albanian rebels. The Ohrid Agreement was signed, paving the way for political reforms to enhance the status of the ethnic Albanian population within Macedonia. The government signed a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU, aimed at bringing Macedonia into line with EU political, economic and social norms.

2002 After parliamentary elections, the Socijaldemokratski Sojuz na Makedonija (SDSM) (Social Democratic Alliance of Macedonia) leader, Branko Crvenkovski, became prime minister, heading a multi-ethnic, 10-member coalition government.

2003 The EU took over NATO's military mission in Macedonia, overseeing the implementation of the Ohrid Agreement. Macedonia joined the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

2004 President Boris Trajkovski died in a plane crash; Ljupco Jordanovski became acting president. Macedonia formally submitted its application to join the EU. Branko Crvenkovski won the presidential elections. Hari Kostov became prime minister but later resigned following disputes within the ruling coalition; Vlado Buckovski became prime minister.

2005 Local elections were held, the first under redrawn electoral boundaries, as stipulated in the Ohrid Agreement. Despite fears of inter-communal tension, EU observers reported a high turnout and few irregularities. EU member states agreed to grant EU candidate status to Macedonia.

2008 The Skopje airport was renamed Skopje-Aleksandar Makedonski (Alexander of Macedonia, or Alexander the Great) Airport. Greece, unhappy with the exploitation of what it saw as its heritage and cultural iconography, criticised the decision and threatened to block Macedonia's membership of NATO unless it dropped the name. However, NATO believes membership for Macedonia will avert divisions within Macedonia, whereby the Slav majority in the east splits from the Albanian minority in the west. Following months of deadlock concerning the rights of the country's minority Albanian community, parliament was dissolved and early parliamentary elections held. For a Better Macedonia, a coalition (of 19 political parties), led by VMRO-DPMNE won 48.3 per cent of the vote (64 seats out of 120), the Sun-Coalition for Europe (coalition of eight parties), won 23.4 per cent (28 seats); turnout was 58 per cent. Nikola Gruevski (VMRO-DPMNE) remained as prime minister.

2009 Branko Crvenkovski decided not to stand in the presidential election. After two rounds George Ivanov (VMRO-DPMNE) won the presidential elections with 63.41 per cent of the vote against Ljubomir Frckoski (SDSM) with 36.56 per cent. In the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Macedonia accused Greece of breaching the 1995

UN-brokered interim accord concerning the use of the name Macedonia, following Greece's blocking of Macedonia's membership of NATO.

2010 127 UN member countries recognised Macedonia by its constitutional name. However, Greece stubbornly required the UN to officially refer to Macedonia as FYROM until such time as Greece and Macedonia resolved their disagreement. Macedonia signed a protocol to jointly found a new company, called

Cargo 10, with Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia to incorporate their railway companies.

2011 All opposition parties boycotted parliament in January, accusing the prime minister of authoritarian rule and curbing media freedom, and called for early elections. President Ivanov convened a meeting in February to resolve the political crisis. The opposition SDSM walked out of parliament, accusing the government of interference in the media. In March, Prime Minister Gruevski finally set a date for new elections. For the first time, three parliamentary seats were established for representatives of expatriate Macedonians (one each for those living in Europe, Americas and Asia), bringing the total number of parliamentary seats in contention to 123. In the elections, held in June, the VMRO-DPMNE ruling coalition won 39.0 per cent of the vote (56 seats out of 123), which less than the 64 seats was won in 2008, and not enough to rule outright. The SDSM won 32.78 per cent which at 42 was a higher number of seats than in 2008 (27), but still not enough for the right to form a coalition government. The national census was officially stopped by parliament in October, having already come to a stop (four days before its scheduled completion date), following the resignation of members of the State Census Commission (SCC). The 2002 census had been controversial, with the registration of over 20 per cent of the population as ethnic Albanians disputed; this would have allowed them collective rights and privileges under the Ohrid Framework Agreement. A long-running political dispute grew, over whether the 2011 census would be a repeat of the previous one and without agreement the census was scrapped to be re-run in 2012.

2012 Two weeks of communal violence between ethnic Macedonian and Albanian youths in Skopje in March resulted in the arrest of 20 people and a dozen injured and a warning issued on 13 March from the EU that the fighting was likely to cause 'emotional consequences'. In April the World Bank announced it would provide US\$100 million to Macedonia to pursue economic reforms specific to health, education and welfare issues. On 3 November, the government adopted a budget of €2.7 billion (US\$3.5 billion) for 2013.

2013 A trade row between Macedonia and Kosovo in September threatened to escalate into a political confrontation. Macedonia started it by imposing quantitative limitations on flour and wheat from Kosovo and other neighbours to protect local production. Kosovo responded by banning all food imports from Macedonia. Macedonia imposed a tax of 12 on

Kosova citizens crossing into Macedonia, 15 per car and 10 per bus or truck. In the latest move, Kosovo banned all border crossings.

## Political structure

### Constitution

Under the constitution, adopted on 17 November 1991, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) is a sovereign, independent, democratic and socially responsive state. There is universal suffrage from age 18. The constitution guarantees the free expression of national identity, the rule of law (including international law) and the legal protection of property. The principles of a free commercial market, urban and rural planning and environmental protection are also enshrined in the constitution.

Constitutional amendments to give the ethnic Albanian minority more rights were endorsed by parliament in November 2001.

### Form of state

Parliamentary democratic republic

### The executive

The executive is headed by the president, directly elected every five years. The prime minister appoints a cabinet of 20 ministers, who must be approved by a majority of the country's national assembly.

### National legislature

The unicameral Sobranje (National Assembly) has 120 members elected by proportional representation in multi-seat constituencies (six electoral districts returning 20 delegates each), for four-year terms.

In 2011, for the first time, three parliamentary seats were established for representatives of expatriate Macedonians (one each for those living in Europe, Americas and Asia), bringing the total number of parliamentary seats in contention to 123.

### Legal system

Judicial powers are vested in courts which are nominally independent of government under the terms of the 1991 constitution. In practice, the judiciary remains politicised, especially in cases involving ethnic Albanians and other minorities. All civil and criminal cases are dealt with by courts of general jurisdiction. The Supreme Court is the highest court. Elected by parliament, the Judicial Council appoints and dismisses all judges and other judicial officials. The judicial system is the administrative responsibility of the justice ministry. There is a public prosecutor. The Constitutional Court decides on the conformity of national legislation with the 1991 constitution.

Macedonia is aiming to harmonise its laws and judicial standards with those of the EU and the Council of Europe, but progress is slow.

## Last elections

22 March / 5 April 2009 (presidential and runoff); 5 June 2011 (parliamentary).

**Results:** Presidential: (first round) Gjorgje Ivanov (VMRO-DPMNE) won 33.95 per cent, Ljubomir Frckoski (Socijaldemokratski sojuz na Makedonija) (SDSM) (Social Democratic Union of Macedonia) 19.81 per cent, Imer Selmani (Demokracia E Re) (New Democracy) 14.51 per cent, Ljube Boškoski (Independent) 14.4 per cent. Four other candidates each won less than 10 per cent. (Runoff): Ivanov 63.41 per cent of the vote; Frckoski 36.56 per cent. Turnout was 42 per cent.

Parliamentary: Vnatrešno-Makedonska Revolucionarna Organizacija-Demokratska Partija za Makedonsko Nacionalno Edintsvo (VMRO-DPMNE) (Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity) won 39 per cent of the vote (56 seats out of 123), Socijaldemokratski Sojuz na Makedonija (SDSM) (Social Democratic Alliance of Macedonia) 32.8 per cent (42), Bashkimi Demokratik për Integritim (BDI) (Democratic Union for Integration) 10.2 per cent (15), Partia Demokratike Shqiptare (PDS) (Democratic Party of Albania) 5.9 per cent (8); turnout was 63.5 per cent.

Expatriate Macedonians living in Europe, the US and Australia each elected one candidate as their Member of Parliament (MP).

## Next elections

2014 (presidential); June 2015 (parliamentary)

## Political parties

### Ruling party

Coalition, led by Vnatrešno-Makedonska Revolucionarna Organizacija-Demokratska Partija za Makedonsko Nacionalno Edintsvo (VMRO-DPMNE) (Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity) (from 2006; re-elected 5 Jun 2011)

### Main opposition party

Socijaldemokratski sojuz na Makedonija (SDSM) (Social Democratic Union of Macedonia)

## Population

2.07 million (2012)\*

Nearly one-third of the total population of Macedonia lives in Skopje.

**Last census:** November 2002: 2,022,547

**Population density:** 79 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 59 per cent (2010 Unicef).

**Annual growth rate:** 0.4 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

**Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)** 3,000 (UNHCR 2004)

### **Ethnic make-up**

Macedonian (63 per cent), Albanian (30 per cent), Turkish (4 per cent), Romanian (3 per cent). The Albanians are concentrated in Tetovo, Gostivar and other parts of the north-west.

### **Religions**

The official religion is Macedonian Orthodox Christianity, which is practised by approximately two-thirds of the population. Muslims (over a quarter of the population) and Roman Catholics practise openly.

### **Education**

The educational system is entirely state-controlled. During the 1990s, independence from Yugoslavia meant an end to federal subsidies, resulting in declining educational provision in Macedonia. Politically, the issue of ethnic Albanian access to higher education in the Albanian language has been the cause of great controversy and even violence in Macedonia.

Primary schooling lasts for eight years and is followed by attendance at either a general secondary school for academic students or at a variety of technical, specialist or vocational schools. After four years, in whichever mode of school, students must undertake examination before advancement to the second, three-year stage. Courses may last until students are aged 19.

There are three universities in Macedonia: Skopje, Bitola and Tetovo. The Albanian-language University at Tetovo is legalised and classified by parliament as an accredited private institution.

**Compulsory years:** Seven to 15.

**Enrolment rate:** 99 per cent total primary enrolment of relevant age group (including repetition rates); 63 per cent total secondary enrolment (World Bank).

### **Health**

The standard of state healthcare is low compared to the rest of the former Yugoslavia, the basic healthcare infrastructure has declined mainly due to the lack of funds to replace essential equipment and retain doctors in the state sector.

Healthcare provision has increasingly involved extra charges, notably for medication, leading to a large black market in healthcare services. Most healthcare professionals are either in semi-private or private practice and some parts of the healthcare system have been privatised. Externally, Macedonia received considerable international aid for local healthcare during the 1990s.

Improved water sources and sanitation facilities are available to 99 per cent of the population.

### **HIV/Aids**

**HIV prevalence:** 0.1 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

**Life expectancy:** 72 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

**Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate:** 1.4 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef); maternal mortality three per 100,000 live births (World Bank).

**Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000):** 7 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012); and 5.9 per cent of children aged under five are malnourished (World Bank).

**Head of population per physician:** 2.19 physicians per 1,000 people, 2001 (WHO 2006)

### **Welfare**

Welfare provision was heavily subsidised by budgetary transfers from outside Macedonia during the Yugoslav period, when retirement pensions and other welfare benefits were relatively generous at around 80 per cent of average monthly income. Consequently, the state pension fund experienced major financial problems after independence. Welfare benefits declined sharply, aggravated by spells of high inflation. The IMF and other official creditors have made loans available in recent years for the state pension fund and unemployment benefit outlays. The foreign exchange remittances of emigrants plays a major role in the economic support of many Macedonians.

### **Main cities**

Skopje (capital, estimated population 486,596 in 2012), Kumanovo (118,750), Bitola (84,867), Tetovo (76,895), Prilep (73,743), Veles (57,615), Ohrid (55,258), Gostivar (53,675).

### **Languages spoken**

Macedonian (Slavic) is written using the Cyrillic alphabet.

The Albanian minority campaigned successfully to have its language officially recognised as the country's second language. Turkish, Serbian, Croatian and Romani are also spoken.

English, French and German are often understood.

### **Official language/s**

Macedonian and Albanian.

### **Media**

The constitution guarantees freedom of the press and access to information, there are laws that back up these rights although specific regulation concerning media can be loosely implemented, including the non-transparency of media ownership.

### **Press**

The newspaper market is dominated by three major media groups; the German Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (WAZ), A1-Vreme and Vecer-Sitel-Cetis.

**Dailies:** In Macedonian, the most widely read newspapers are *Utrinski Vesnik*

([www.utrinski.com.mk](http://www.utrinski.com.mk)), *Dnevnik* ([www.dnevnik.com.mk](http://www.dnevnik.com.mk)), *Vest* ([www.vest.com.mk](http://www.vest.com.mk)), other publications include *Vreme* ([www.vreme.com.mk](http://www.vreme.com.mk)), *Nova Makedonija*

([www.novamakedonija.com.mk](http://www.novamakedonija.com.mk)), and the state-subsidised *Vecer* ([www.vecer.com.mk](http://www.vecer.com.mk)) which is a tabloid.

**Weeklies:** In Macedonian, general interest publications include *Forum* ([www.forum.com.mk](http://www.forum.com.mk)) and *Makedonsko Sonce* ([www.makedonskosonce.com](http://www.makedonskosonce.com)), *Aktuel Start* and *Focus*.

**Business:** In Macedonian, *Kapital* ([www.kapital.com.mk](http://www.kapital.com.mk)) is an economic weekly magazine.

### **Broadcasting**

The national, public broadcaster is Makedonska Radiotelevizija (MRT) ([www.mrt.com.mk](http://www.mrt.com.mk)).

**Radio:** MRT ([www.mrt.com.mk](http://www.mrt.com.mk)) operates three stations providing programmes in Macedonian, eight foreign languages of the region and English. There are many licensed and unlicensed local radio stations in a market that is highly fragmented. Private, commercial stations include City FM ([www.cityradio.com.mk](http://www.cityradio.com.mk)), Radio Antenna 5 ([www.antenna5.com.mk](http://www.antenna5.com.mk)) and Radio Vati ([www.vati.com.mk](http://www.vati.com.mk)).

**Television:** MRT ([www.mrt.com.mk](http://www.mrt.com.mk)) operates three stations providing national coverage. Although two channels provide programmes for the majority Macedonian population the last channel broadcasts in local, ethnic languages. Alsat-M ([www.alsat-m.tv](http://www.alsat-m.tv)) provides programmes for the large minority Albanian population. Sitel ([www.sitel.com.mk](http://www.sitel.com.mk)) is the leading commercial channel, followed by A1 ([www.a1.com.mk](http://www.a1.com.mk)) and Kanal 5 ([www.kanal5.com.mk](http://www.kanal5.com.mk)). English language programmes provided by cable and satellite broadcasters are becoming increasingly popular.

**National news agency:** MIA (Macedonian Information Agency)

**Other news agencies:** Makfax: [www.makfax.com.mk](http://www.makfax.com.mk)

### **Economy**

Macedonia's economy is small with average gross domestic production (GDP) of a little over US\$9.2 billion per annum (2007–10). It had a GDP growth rate of 5 per cent in 2008, which fell to -0.9 per cent in 2009 as the global economic crisis struck and Macedonia was affected by falling exports and higher priced imports. In 2010, as global trade improved so GDP growth rose to 1.8 per cent following this trend, with further growth of an estimated 3 per cent in 2011.

Typically, the services sector constitutes over 50 per cent of the economy, with the industrial sector providing over 35 per

cent of GDP and agriculture accounting for some 10 per cent. Although agriculture is the smallest component of the economy, it is characterised by small family farms that provide around 20 per cent of paid employment. Macedonia is a net exporter of processed vegetables, as well as fruits, cereals and tobacco and grapes for wine production.

Industrial production is largely centred on iron and steel, with manufacturing in clothing and footwear. Structural reforms to Macedonia's industrial sector have increased production and prosperity. Unemployment has been a long-term problem with rates of over 30 per cent for the entire last half of the 2000s. Prospects for the medium-term do not indicate any improvement. However, many people work in the grey economy, which is estimated to be 20 per cent of GDP, with production consequently lost to the official economy. The lack of employment opportunities has also encouraged many skilled workers to seek work abroad. Remittances in 2010 was US\$388 million (3.9 per cent of GDP), rising to an estimated US\$435 million in 2011.

In April 2012, the World Bank announced it would provide US\$100 million to Macedonia to pursue economic reforms specific to health, education and welfare issues.

#### External trade

Macedonia has signed a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the EU and has duty free access to EU markets. It is expected to become a full EU member by 2010. It belongs to the World Trade Organisation and has free trade agreements with Turkey and Ukraine as well as membership in the Central European Free Trade Agreement (Cerfta).

Macedonia is set to earn annual transit fees from the new 895km Balkan oil pipeline (AMBO), from Burgas, on the Black Sea (Bulgaria) to the port of Vlore, in southern Albania. The trilateral agreement contract was signed in 2007; the project is estimated to cost is US\$1.2 billion and has a supply target of 750,000 barrels per day. It will allow Caspian oil to by-pass Turkey's increasingly congested Bosphorus and Dardanelles shipping lanes.

#### Imports

Principal imports are hydrocarbons, machinery iron, steel and chemicals, food-stuffs and vehicles.

**Main sources:** Greece (12.3 per cent of total in 2012), Germany (9.7 per cent), UK (8.6 per cent).

#### Exports

Principal exports are clothing and footwear, tobacco, food and beverages, machinery and equipment, iron and steel and chemicals.

**Main destinations:** Germany (29.4 per cent of total in 2012), Serbia and Montenegro (17.2 per cent), Bulgaria (7.1 per cent).

#### Agriculture

The agricultural sector accounts for 13 per cent of GDP and employs 30 per cent of the workforce.

Agricultural land totals 1.3 million hectares (ha), of which approximately half is cultivable and half is pasture. Macedonia has propitious conditions for agriculture and is nearly self-sufficient in food production. The private sector accounts for over 75 per cent of agricultural production.

The government has allowed a systematic break-up of the old *agrokombinats*, or collectivised farms. As a result, privately owned farms now account for 90 per cent of annual output, although each farm is rarely more than 25ha. New private company formation in agriculture is also growing rapidly.

On the negative side, the state still directly controls 30 per cent of all arable land, or around 300,000ha. Markedly less productive than the private sector, state farms and co-operatives are scheduled to be privatised in due course, although this remains politically controversial. Local agriculture is one of the few sectors of interest to potential foreign investors due to the cultivation of higher value cash crops (particularly tobacco) with ready markets in the EU, and cheap labour costs. Economically, the government now regards agriculture as a major area for future growth and development, including increased foreign direct investment (FDI). Macedonia has a small fishing industry, which catches freshwater fish for domestic consumption.

Forest and other wooded land account for about two-fifths of the land area, equivalent to approximately 906,000ha. More than four-fifths of the forest is available for wood supply. Forest resources supply an active forestry industry producing approximately 774,000 cubic metres (cum) of timber per annum.

Forest wood is mainly used for fuel, while hardwood processed in local sawmills is largely exported. Domestic demand for softwoods and paper is met by imports.

#### Industry and manufacturing

Industry and manufacturing account for nearly 35 per cent of GDP. Macedonia retains a relatively industrialised economy inherited from the Yugoslav period. During the 1990s, the collapse of the Yugoslav market and subsequent regional conflict, the loss of former Soviet markets, the Greek economic blockade and resultant energy shortages all had devastating

consequences for Macedonian industrial output.

Although privatisation of smaller industries has been largely completed, sell-offs of larger industries are still at an early stage. State industries suffer from overstaffing, slow growth, a slow rate of change in the structure of production and ailing technology.

#### Tourism

The attractions of Macedonia include Unesco's World Heritage listed natural and cultural Ohrid region, which includes Europe's oldest human settlement and the oldest Slav monastery located in the region with a wealth of Byzantine-style religious icons. The country has a landscape of lakes and rivers that have largely escaped industrialisation. Macedonia has the potential to draw in many visitors, although investment in the sector only attracts around 2 per cent of total capital investment, which is inadequate to develop the necessary tourist infrastructure to grow the industry. Cultural and heritage events such as folk, wedding and children's festivals are held each year, primarily for Macedonians but to which everyone is invited.

Travel and tourism typically accounts for 4.9 per cent of GDP with employment in the sector at around 4.5 per cent of total employment (27,000 jobs). Visitor receipts averaged 219 million (2006–11) and recorded growth in 2011, after two years of negative growth.

#### Environment

The Vardar, Macedonia's main river, collects the waste from several towns with no treatment facilities before flowing through Greece to the Aegean Sea. A system for monitoring the waterways and a project for communal water treatment for six towns have been initiated by the Macedonian government.

Macedonia and Albania participate in the Lake Ohrid Conservation Project (LOCP) which is a bilateral project supported by the World Bank.

#### Mining

Macedonia is an important producer of metals and mines significant quantities of copper and lead-zinc ores, ferroalloys and some silver. There is also some chromium production from reserves that overlap with those of nearby Albania. The aluminium and copper ore production is centred on Alumina AD in Skopje and 'Bucim' Radovis DM in Radovis respectively. There is also significant quarrying of decorative and architectural building stone.

The mining sector in Macedonia has had little chance for growth due to regional instability and depressed market conditions. The various conflicts in the former

Yugoslavia have created a regional dislocation of transportation of cargoes on the Danube river, shifting the route of exports through the port of Thessaloniki in Greece at a huge cost. This financial burden has diminished Macedonia's production of hot and cold rolled steel to about 30 per cent of capacity, and the export of finished products by Balkan Steel International (BSI).

However, it was not regional dislocation that affected some companies that have traditionally exported through Greece. Their production fell or ceased due to shortage of foreign investment and adverse market conditions. Foreign investment and participation has been restricted to the steel industry (Duferco and BSI), petroleum refining (Hellenic Petroleum) and cement (Titan Cement and Holderbank Financiere Glaris).

### Hydrocarbons

There are no commercial oil or gas reserves although exploration is ongoing. Consumption of oil in 2008 was 21,000 barrels per day (bpd) and consumption of natural gas was 113.2 million cubic metres (cum) all of which was imported. There is one oil refinery, located outside Skopje, with production of 50,000bpd. Although Macedonia signed a US\$1.8 billion agreement with Bulgaria and Albania in 2004 to construct a trans-Balkans oil pipeline, it was not until 2007 that an agreement to begin construction in 2008 had been signed. Even so in 2009 planning work was still ongoing. The 984km pipeline will connect the Black Sea with the Adriatic, via the Bulgarian port of Burgas and the Albanian port of Vlores, and will transport Russian and Caspian oil that would otherwise have to be shipped through the Bosphorus. On 4 July 2012 Macedonia signed an agreement to participate in the Russian-led South Stream natural gas pipeline project. Natural gas will be piped via the Black Sea and through the Balkans and into the lucrative energy markets of Western Europe. Not only will countries involved in the transit of natural gas be able to access the gas but will also receive a transit fee.

Plans to use natural gas as a main source of energy include reconstruction of the existing Skopje-Oblic (Pristina) gas pipeline. Macedonia also has a gas pipeline of 100km from Deve Bair to Skopje with a connection to the international gas pipeline in Bulgaria. This pipeline transfers over 800 million cum per annum as part of a wider Russian gas export pipeline network in the Balkan region that supplies Greece with natural gas.

Macedonia has large reserves of coal, estimated at more than one billion tonnes, with an annual production rate of 8.9

million tonnes. Most output is low-grade coal used extensively in domestic energy production. Higher quality anthracite coals and coke (approximately 130,000 tonnes per annum) have

### Energy

Total installed generating capacity was 1,550MW in 2008 producing 6.67 billion kilowatt hours. In 2009, 70 per cent of energy needs were met by domestic production, with hydropower supplying most; 30 per cent of annual electricity need is imported. The Austrian EVN company bought 90 per cent of the formerly state-owned Elektrostopanstvo na Makedonija (ESM) in 2006.

There are six hydroelectric dams, the latest power station, at Cebren, has a total capacity of 255MW, whereas all but the Vrutok power plant, with a capacity of 245MW, are older and have capacities of no greater than 92MW. Thermal power stations are typically old and due for upgrading or decommissioning.

A number of new hydroelectric power plants are being built and plans are being considered by the government to modernise some of Macedonia's older power plants.

### Financial markets

#### Stock exchange

Makedonska Berza (Macedonia Stock Exchange) (MSE)

#### Banking and insurance

There are seven major public lending and savings banks in Macedonia, as well as several smaller private commercial credit banks. The sector is dominated by Stopanska Banka, which has approximately 65 per cent of domestic banking assets and 50 per cent of banking deposits.

The republic has a tiered banking structure. The Narodna banka na Republika Makedonija (NBRM) (National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia) is responsible for the money supply, the liquidity of financial institutions and foreign currency transactions and reserves. The banking system requires a major overhaul. Competition is being introduced with the emergence of private credit institutions such as Uniprokom. International institutions are providing loans.

#### Central bank

Narodna banka na Republika Makedonija (NBRM) (National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia)

#### Time

GMT plus one hour (daylight saving, late March to late September, GMT plus two hours)

### Geography

Situated in south-eastern Europe on the Balkan peninsula, Macedonia, or Vardar Macedonia, is part of a wider historical and geographical region of the same name. Part of this ancient territory, known as Pirin Macedonia, is situated in modern-day Greece. Roughly rectangular in shape, Macedonia is bordered by Serbia to the north (Kosovo province to the north-west and Serbia to the north-east), Albania to the west, Bulgaria to the east and Greece to the south. Geographically, the republic is dominated by the Balkan Mountains and the Vardar River, which flows north-west to south-east.

Macedonia's strategic importance is out of all proportion to its small size, population and economic resources. On the negative side, its small size and lack of direct access to the sea makes Macedonia very vulnerable to its stronger neighbours in the southern Balkans.

Macedonia's major geographic characteristics are two large inland lakes, Ohrid and Prespa, which are shared with Albania and Greece. Lake Ohrid is a Unesco-designated World Heritage Site.

#### Hemisphere

Northern

#### Climate

The river valleys of Vardar and Strumica are temperate Mediterranean, as is the eastern region. Western and northern regions are temperate continental. However, temperatures may vary from 40 degrees Celsius (C) in the summer to minus 30 degrees C in the winter. Rainfall averages 742 millimetres annually, but around 450 millimetres in Skopje which has about 100 days of rain annually. Skopje can be very hot in the summer and shrouded in mist in the winter.

#### Dress codes

Informal dress is tolerated in Macedonia, but should be avoided in business contexts, notably in Skopje.

#### Entry requirements

##### Passports

Required by all, with three months validity beyond date of stay.

##### Visa

Required by all, except nationals of EU/EEA and most CIS countries, US, New Zealand, Japan, Malaysia, Israel, Botswana, Argentina, Cuba and Barbados. Visitors should contact the nearest consulate to confirm their visa status and requirements before travelling.

Business visas require a letter of invitation from a local company, submitted with the application.

#### Currency advice/regulations

There are no restrictions on the import and export of local or foreign currency.

**Health (for visitors)**

Medical care in private facilities or by private practitioners is not covered by insurance. Foreigners are entitled to medical care in state medical facilities and those staying for a year or more have a right to full medical coverage. Temporary visitors and those in transit are entitled to basic necessities and emergency first-aid treatment, but payment in cash is expected, regardless of insurance cover.

**Mandatory precautions**

None

**Advisable precautions**

Vaccinations are recommended for hepatitis A and, if expecting to eat or drink outside main hotels and restaurants, typhoid. Food and water precautions should be observed. Public health is poor in certain parts of Macedonia.

**Hotels**

There are around 90 hotels in Macedonia. There is one first-class hotel, in Skopje.

**Public holidays (national)****Fixed dates**

1–2 Jan (New Year), 6–7 Jan (Orthodox Christmas), 14 Jan (Orthodox New Year's Day), 8 Mar (Women's Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 24 May (SS Cyrilus and Methodius Day), 2 Aug (Ilinden Day), 8 Sep (Independence Day), 11 Oct (National Day).

**Variable dates**

Orthodox Easter Monday, Eid al Adha, Eid al Fitr.

**Working hours****Banking**

Mon–Fri: 0730–1930; Sat: 0800–1300.

**Business**

Mon–Fri: 0800–1600 or 0830–1630.

**Government**

Mon–Fri: 0700–1500 or 0730–1530.

**Shops**

Mon–Fri: 0800–1200 and 1700–2000/2100, but many shops open throughout day; Sat: 0800–1500.

**Telecommunications****Mobile/cell phones**

GSM 900 roaming facilities are available with coverage throughout the country. Services are provided by Cosmofon and MobiMak.

**Electricity supply**

220V AC 50Hz with two large round prongs.

**Weights and measures**

Metric system.

**Social customs/useful tips**

Macedonians are a friendly people, although less gregarious than their Serbian neighbours in the Balkans. Similar to the

Bulgarians, they are also practically minded.

Political discussions of any sort are best avoided altogether by foreigners. There are strict laws against drinking and driving, speeding and other traffic offences. They are rigorously enforced.

**Security**

Car theft is very common. Local ownership of firearms is high.

**Getting there****Air**

**National airline:** Makedonski

Aviotransport (MAT) (Macedonian Airlines)

**International airport/s:** Skopje (SKP), 25km from city, post office, restaurants, duty-free shop; Ohrid (OHD), 10km from city.

Air traffic control systems are not up to European standards and the airports are by-passed by many international carriers and used primarily by regional airlines.

**Airport tax:** None.

**Surface**

**Road:** Bus services operate along the main routes connecting Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia.

**Rail:** Several international railway lines pass through Skopje, including the Ljulan–Athens and Budapest–Athens services. Intercity trains provide connections between Skopje and Belgrade (Serbia) and Thessaloniki (Greece).

**Getting about****National transport**

**Air:** There are no regular scheduled flights, although occasional flights between Ohrid and Skopje are available.

**Road:** There are 4,876km of modernised roads. The main road is between Ohrid and Tetovo.

**Rail:** There are 922km of railway lines, of which 231km are electrified. The main terminals are at Skopje, Bitola and Gevgelija on the Greek border, Kicevo in the west of the country and Kriva Palanka on the Bulgarian border.

**City transport**

**Taxis:** Good service operating in all main cities. Licensed taxis are metered, but the fare should be agreed before the journey. A 10 per cent tip is usual. Unmarked taxis should be avoided.

**Buses, trams & metro:** Most city centres are served by trams, and the suburbs by buses. The service is generally cheap and regular.

**Car hire**

Limited availability in Skopje, but very expensive. Special insurance is required for travel to certain parts of the country. An international driving licence is required. Hired cars generally have to be paid for in foreign exchange.

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

**Telephone area codes**

The international direct dialling code (IDD) for Macedonia is +389 followed by the area code and subscriber's number:

|          |    |        |    |
|----------|----|--------|----|
| Gostivar | 42 | Prilep | 48 |
| Kicevo   | 45 | Skopje | 2  |
| Kochani  | 33 | Tetovo | 44 |
| Kumanovo | 31 | Veles  | 43 |

**Useful telephone numbers**

Police: 92

Fire: 93

Ambulance: 94

Time: 95

Telegrams: 96

Telephone service: 977

Report emergencies: 985

Emergency road service: 987

Telephone information: 988

**Chambers of Commerce**

American Chamber of Commerce in Macedonia, 13 Juli Street 20, 1000 Skopje (tel: 3123-873; fax: 3123-872; e-mail: contact@amcham.com.mk).

Economic Chamber of Macedonia, Dimitrie Cupovski Street 13, PO Box 324, 1000 Skopje (tel: 3118-088; fax: 3116-210; e-mail: ic@ic.mchamber.org.mk).

Skopje Regional Chamber, Partizanski Odredi Boulevard 2, PO Box 509, 1000 Skopje (tel: 3112-511; fax: 3116-419; e-mail: regkoms@regkom.org.mk).

**Banking**

Balkanska Banka, 6 Maksim Gorki, Skopje (tel: 3127-155; fax: 3132-186).

Eksport Import Banka, Dame Gruev 14, PO Box 836, Skopje (tel: 3133-411; fax: 3112-744; e-mail: info@eximpb.com.mk).

Invest Banka, Makedonija 9/11, Skopje (tel: 3114-166; fax: 3135-528).

Izvozna i Kreditna Banka, 11 Oktomvri 8, Skopje (tel: 3122-207; fax: 3122-393).

Komercijalna Banka, Kej Dimitar Vlahov 4, PO Box 563, Skopje (tel: 3112-077; fax: 3111-780; e-mail: international@kb.com.mk).

Kreditna Banka Skopje, Dame Gruev, Skopje (tel: 3116-433; fax: 3116-830).

Makedonska Banka, Bul. VMRO 3-12/2, Skopje (tel: 3117-111; fax: 3117-191; e-mail: info@makbanka.com.mk).

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Radobank, Jurij Gagarin 17, Skopje (tel: 3393-300; fax: 3380-453; e-mail: radobank@radobank.com.mk).

Sileks Banka, Gradski Zid, Blok 9, Lokal 5, Skopje (tel: 3115-288; fax: 3114-891).

Stopanska Banka, 11 Oktomvri 7, Skopje (tel: 3191-191; fax: 3114-503; e-mail: sbank@stb.com.mk).

Teteks Bank, Naroden Front 19a, Skopje (tel: 3127-449; fax: 3131-419).

Tutunska Banka, 12 Udarna brigada bb, PO Box 702, Skopje (tel: 3105-600; fax: 3164-068; e-mail: tbanka@tb.com.mk).

Zemjodelska Banka, Vasil Glavinov 28/2, Skopje (tel: 3112-699; fax: 3224-844).

### Central bank

National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia, PO Box 401, Kompleks banki bb, 1000 Skopje (tel: 3108-108; fax: 3108-357; e-mail: governorsoffice@nbrm.gov.mk).

### Stock exchange

Makedonska Berza (Macedonia Stock Exchange) (MSE), Mito Hadzivasilev 20, Skopje (tel: 3122-055; fax: 3122-069; e-mail: mse@com.mk).

### Travel information

Macedonian Airlines (MAT), Vasil Glavinov 3, Skopje (tel: 3292-333; fax: 3229-576; e-mail: matha@mat.com.mk).

Ohrid Airport, PO Box 134, Ohrid (tel: 252-820; fax: 252-840; e-mail: ohdap@airports.com.mk).

Skopje Airport, Skopje (tel: 148-300; fax: 148-360; e-mail: skpap@airports.com.mk).

Tourist Association of Skopje, Dame Gruev Gradski, Blok 3, PO Box 399, Skopje (tel: 3118-498; fax: 3230-803; e-mail: info@skopjetourism.org).

### Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water, Leninova 2, Skopje (tel: 3134-477; fax: 3211-997).

Ministry of Culture, Bul. Ilinden bb, Skopje (tel: 3118-022; fax: 3127-112).

Ministry of Defence, Orce Nikolov bb, Skopje (tel: 3119-872; fax: 3 221-808; e-mail: info@morm.gov.mk).

Ministry of Economy, Bote Bocevski bb, Skopje (tel: 3113-705; fax: 3111-541; e-mail: ms@mt.net.mk).

Ministry of Education and Science, Dimitrija Chupovski 9, Skopje (tel: 3117-277; fax: 3118-414; e-mail: contact@mofk.gov.mk).

Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning, Drezdenska 52, Skopje (tel: 3366-930; fax: 3366-931; e-mail: info@moe.gov.mk).

Ministry of Finance, Dame Gruev 14, Skopje (tel: 3117-288; fax: 3117-280).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dame Gruev 6, Skopje (tel: 3110-330; fax: 3115-790; e-mail: mailmnr@mnr.gov.mk).

Ministry of Health, Vodnjanska bb, Skopje (tel: 3147-147; fax: 3113-014).

Ministry of Internal Affairs, Dimce Mircev bb, Skopje (tel: 3117-222; fax: 3112-468).

Ministry of Justice, Dimitrija Chupovski 9, Skopje (tel: 3117-277; fax: 3226-975).

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Dame Gruev 14, Skopje (tel: 3117-288; fax: 3118-242).

Ministry of Local Self-Government, Dimitrija Chupovski 9, Skopje (tel: 3117-288; fax: 3211-764).

Ministry of Transport and Communications, Crvena Skopska Opstina 4, Skopje (tel: 3128-200; fax: 3118-144).

Prime Minister's Office, Bul. Ilinden bb, Skopje (tel: 3115-389; fax: 3113-512).

### Other useful addresses

Bank Rehabilitation Agency, Kompleks banki bb, Skopje (tel: 3126-323; fax: 3121-250).

British Embassy, Dimitrija Chupovski 26, 4th Floor, Skopje (tel: 3116-772; fax: 3117-005; e-mail: beskopje@mt.net.mk).

Customs Administration, Lazar Licenovski 13, Skopje (tel: 3224-467; fax: 3237-832).

Fund for National and Regional Roads, Dame Gruev 14, Skopje (tel: 3118-044; fax: 3220-535; e-mail: tanjam@mpt.net.mk).

Macedonia Telecommunications, Orce Nikolov bb, Skopje (tel: 3141-000; fax: 3120-244).

Macedonian Embassy (USA), 3050 K Street, NW, Washington DC 20007 (tel: (+1-202)-337-3063; fax: (+1-202)-337-3093; e-mail: rmacedonia@aol.com).

Privatisation Agency of the Republic of Macedonia, PO Box 410, Nikola Vapcarov 7, Skopje (tel: 3117-564; fax: 3126-022; e-mail: agency@mpa.org.mk).

Skopje Fair, Belasica bb, PO Box 356, Skopje (tel: 3118-288; fax: 3117-375; e-mail: skfair@mt.net.mk).

Skopje Free Economic Zone, Salvador Allende 73, Skopje (tel: 3176-170; fax: 3177-101; e-mail: sfez@mol.com.mk).

US Embassy, Bul. Ilinden bb, Skopje (tel: 3116-180; fax: 3117-103).

**National news agency:** MIA (Macedonian Information Agency)

PO Box 4; Bojmija K-2, 1000 Skopje (tel: 246-1600; fax: 246-4048; email: mia@mia.mk; internet: www.mia.mk).

**Other news agencies:** Makfax: www.makfax.com.mk

### Internet sites

Privatisation Agency of the Republic of Macedonia: <http://www.mpa.org.mk>

Economic Chamber of Macedonia: <http://www.mchamber.org.mk>

Government of FRY Macedonia: <http://www.gov.mk/english>

Agency of Information: <http://www.sinf.gov.mk/defaulten.htm>

National Bank of the Republic of Macedonia: <http://www.nbrm.gov.mk>

Macedonian Stock Exchange: <http://www.mse.org.mk>

Republic of Macedonia News Collection: <http://b-info.com/places/Macedonia/republic/news/>