



## THE ROLE OF THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF BUFTEA CITY, ILFOV COUNTY

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**Abstract:** The article analyzes the evolution of the business environment in Buftea, Ilfov County, during the period 2019–2023, highlighting its role in supporting sustainable local development. The number of economic agents increased from 1,247 in 2019 to 1,385 in 2023, with the vast majority (around 94%) being micro-enterprises with 0–9 employees. The city's turnover reached 2,893 million lei in 2023, up from 1,943 million lei in 2019, while profits rose from 123 million lei to 278 million lei. However, a slight decline in the workforce was recorded, with 4,316 employees in 2023. Economic activity was mainly concentrated in wholesale and retail trade (26.6%), information and communication (12.7%), and construction (12.3%). Overall, the business environment in Buftea had a positive impact on local economic sustainability by increasing revenues and promoting economic diversification.

**Introduction:** The city of Buftea, holds a special place in the county's structure due to its economic development and historical monuments that reflect past events. Since 1990, the local economy has undergone significant changes, including the construction of modern industrial halls, the establishment of various businesses, and the opening of numerous important private enterprises. The natural soil resources of Ilfov County and the Buftea area have created favorable conditions for the development of agriculture-a vital sector in times of global geopolitical and economic instability. Over the past decade, the number of active companies in Buftea has increased, each contributing positively to the city's and county's socio-economic development. Additionally, regional innovation systems play a key role in ensuring economic growth and sustainable local and regional development.

**Material and method:** The study is based on the analysis of statistical data series for the period 2019–2023, with the aim of evaluating the dynamics of the business environment in the city of Buftea, Ilfov County. The analysis focused on key economic variables such as the number of active economic agents, turnover, net profit, workforce distribution, and the structure of enterprises by economic sectors, according to the national classification system (CAEN). The data used in this research were collected from official sources, including the National Institute of Statistics and regional economic reports, and were subsequently processed and presented in the form of graphs and tables to facilitate the interpretation of trends and economic relationships.

### Results and discussions:

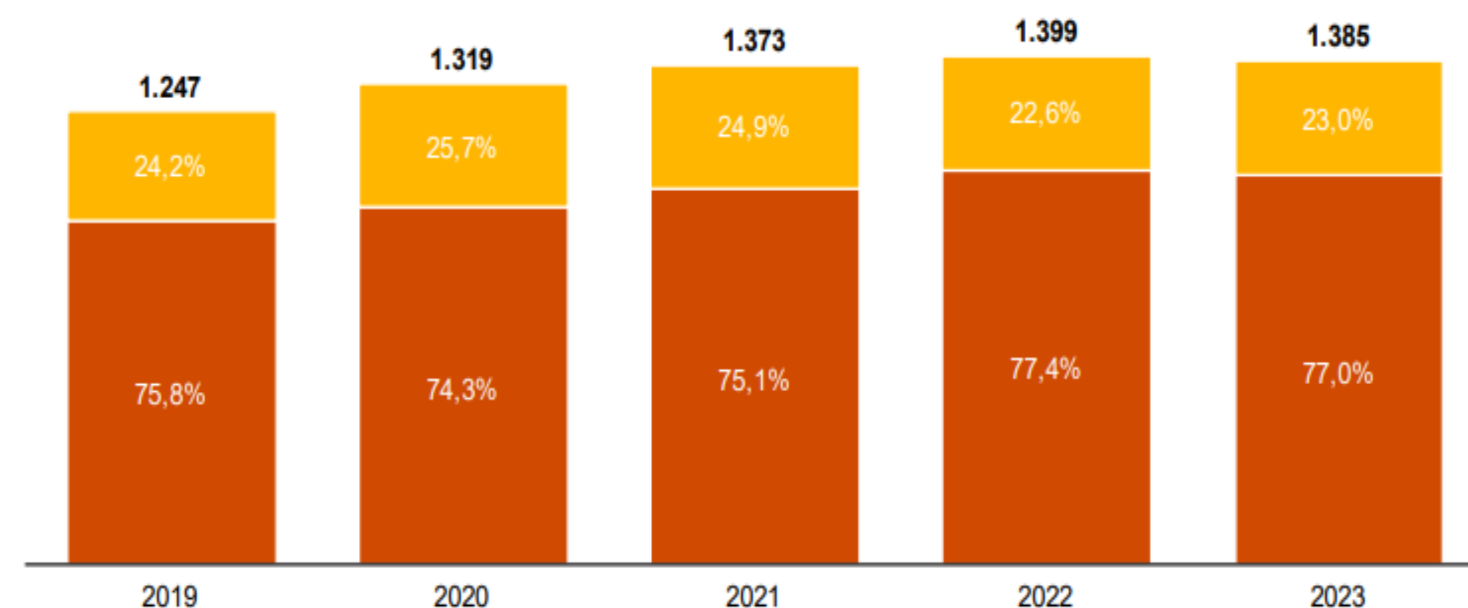


Fig. 1 Number of economic agents in the city of Buftea, in the period 2019-2023

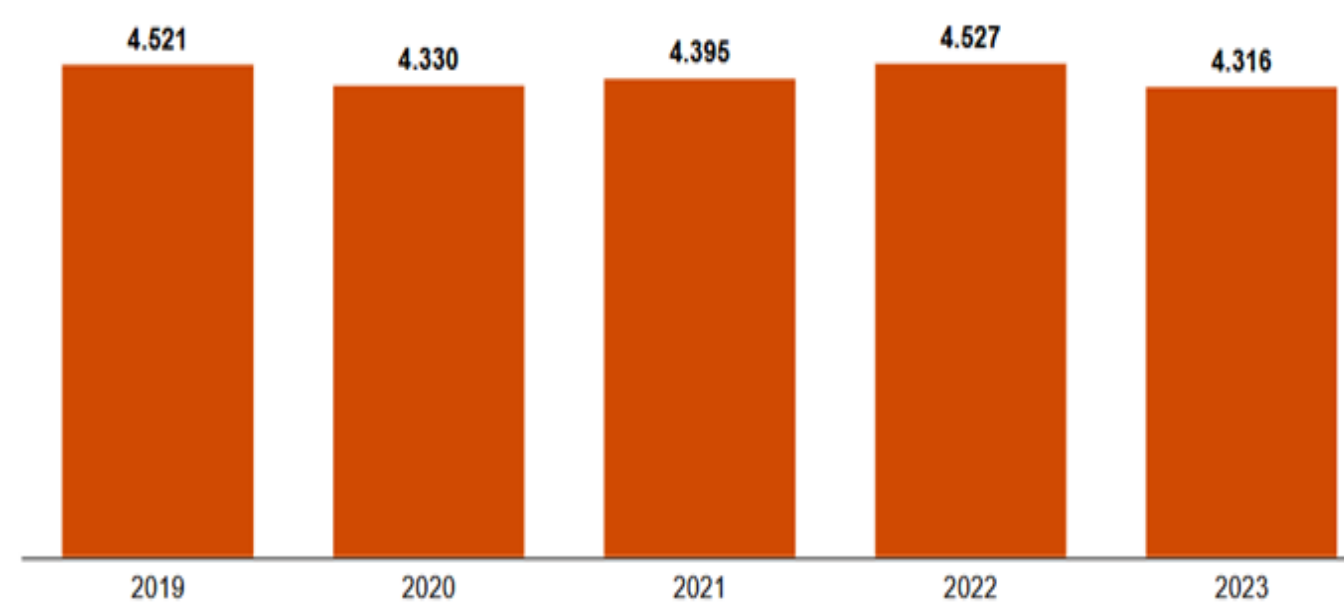


Fig. 2 Number of employees of economic agents in the city of Buftea, in the period 2019-2023

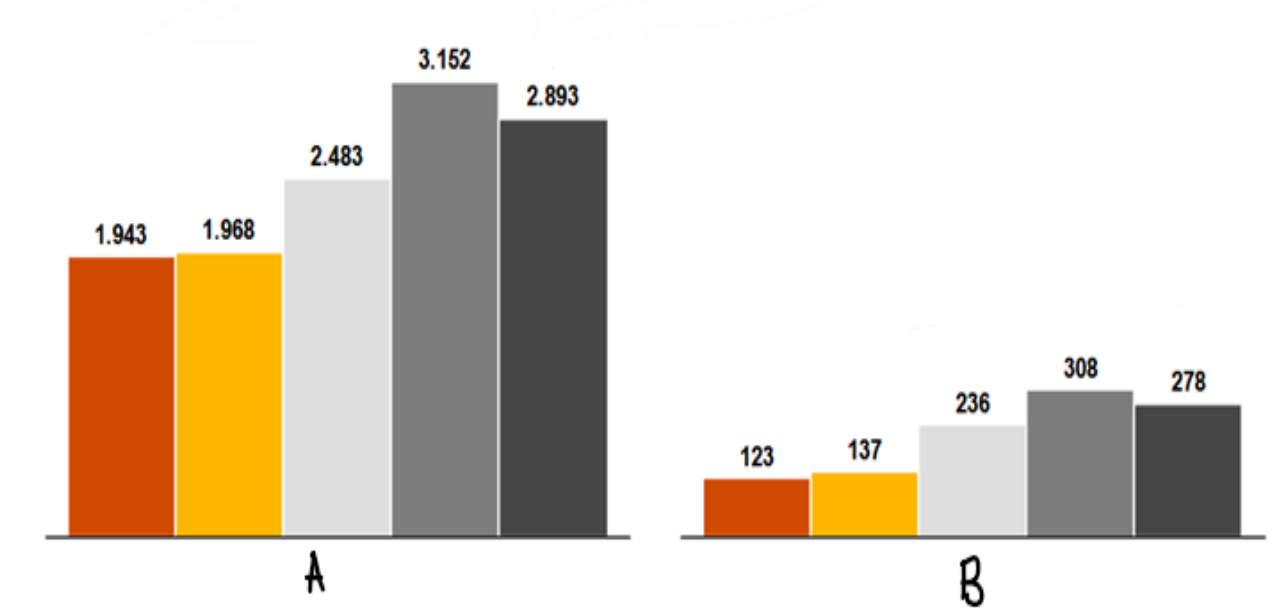


Fig. 3 Turnover (A) and profit (B) recorded by economic agents in the city of Buftea, in the period 2019 - 2023 (million lei)

Between 2019 and 2023, Buftea's economy experienced moderate growth (+2.7% in the number of economic agents), maintaining a high level of business activity (77% of firms with positive turnover). However, the persistent presence of inactive firms highlights the need for support measures to boost economic performance. Trade remains the dominant sector, followed by manufacturing and construction, all showing slight declines. Emerging sectors such as IT, transport, and professional services are growing but still marginal; the economy is heavily dominated by micro-enterprises (94%), indicating a dynamic yet fragile business environment, due to the lack of medium and large companies; while the number of firms increased, total employment declined slightly, suggesting possible automation, efficiency gains, or job insecurity; from 2019 to 2022, turnover and profit increased significantly, but 2023 saw a reversal, with an 8% drop in turnover and a 10% decrease in profit, pointing to potential economic slowdown; most revenues are generated by a small number of medium and large firms in trade and industry, which poses a structural risk in the absence of broader economic diversification

**Conclusions:** The analysis of the business environment dynamics in the city of Buftea during the 2019–2023 period reveals a general trend of economic consolidation, marked by an increase in the number of active economic agents, overall turnover, and profitability.

The data confirm that the business environment plays a crucial role in supporting sustainable local development by contributing to increased public revenues, stimulating investment, and generating added value. In this context, it is essential to continue implementing local public policies that support entrepreneurship, innovation, and public-private partnerships, in order to strengthen a dynamic and sustainable urban economy in Buftea.

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