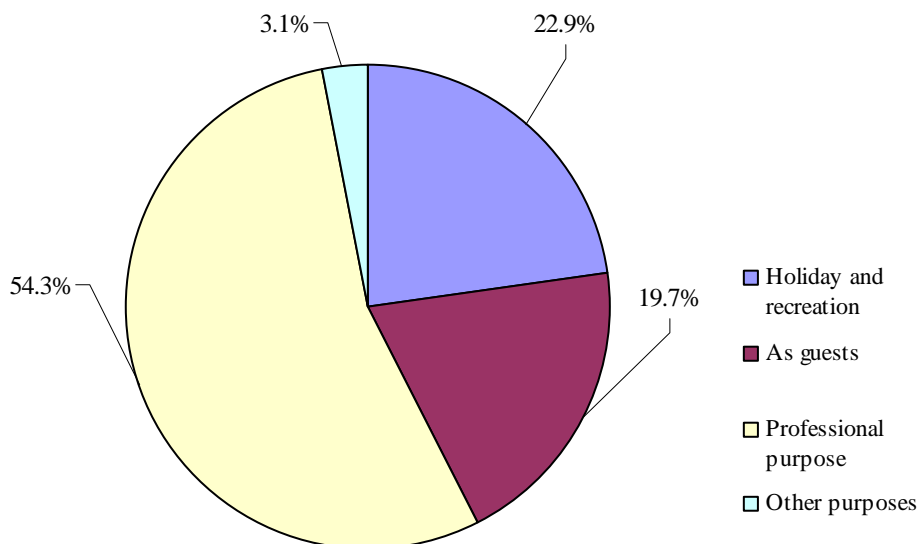




## **Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad and arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria in March 2009**

In March 2009 the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad were 403 718 and decreased by 15.1% in comparison with March 2008 (Annex 1). A decrease has been registered in the number of trips for almost all countries. The highest reduction was in the travels to Denmark - by 69.1%, Japan - by 67.6%, Finland - by 56.9%, Malta - by 56.4%, Slovenia - by 53.3%, Slovakia - by 41.5%, Italy - by 38.7%, Czech Republic - by 37.2% and other countries. More trips in comparison with the same month of 2008 were recorded only to Turkey - 18.4%.

The greatest share of the total trips of the Bulgarian residents travelling abroad was with professional purpose - 54.3%, followed by trips with “holiday and recreation” purpose - 22.9%, visits as guests - 19.7% and other purposes - 3.1%.



### **Structure of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit in March 2009**

Arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria in March 2009 were 334 417 and decreased by 7.3% in comparison with the same month of 2008 (Annex 2). A reduction was registered in the number of visits reported by almost all countries.

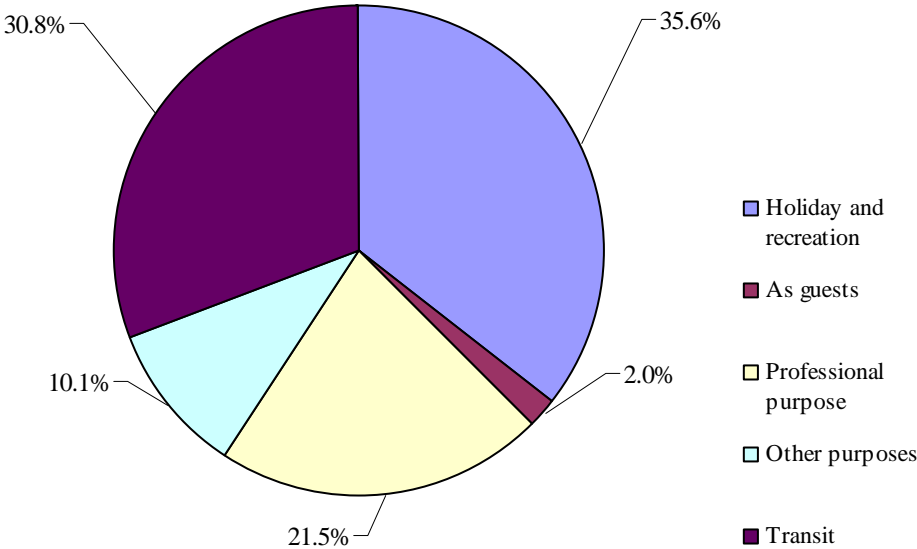
Concerning Member – States of the European Union, the highest decrease of the number of visits was observed for citizens of Malta - by 37.6%, United Kingdom - by 28.7%, Denmark - by 26.0%, Portugal - by 18.7%, Sweden - by 12.4%, Italy - by 9.0%. At the same time more significant an increase was registered of arrivals from Romania - by 7.3%, Germany - by 2.6%, Hungary - by 2.2%.

A reduction of the number of visits by citizens of all countries included in the group of “Other European countries”<sup>1</sup> was registered the highest drop was observed from Norway - by 46.4%,

<sup>1</sup> Group of “Other European countries” include countries in Europe outside EU.

Serbia - by 31.8% and Turkey - by 19.2%. Compared to the same month of 2008 an increase of the number of the visits of citizens from Japan - by 8.4% and Israel - by 7.0% have been registered.

In March 2009 arrivals with a purpose “holiday and recreation” (35.6%) composed the greatest share of the total number of foreigners’ visits to Bulgaria, followed by “transit” purpose - 30.8%, professional purpose - 21.5%, other purposes - 10.1%, and visits as guests - 2.0%.



**Structure of arrivals of visitors to Bulgaria from abroad by purpose of visit in March 2009**

## **Methodological notes**

Statistical data on the trips of Bulgarian citizens abroad and visits by foreigners in Bulgaria are obtained on the basis of monthly information received from the Ministry of Interior and sample survey of the National Statistical Institute among Bulgarian and foreign citizens passing the border check points.

Data on the number of the trips of the citizens of the European Union are estimated on the basis on the information obtained from the Ministry of Interior and the airport authorities. Data on the number of citizens of “third countries” are obtained directly from the Ministry of Interior.

Data on the purposes of the trips are developed on the basis of the NSI’s regular monthly sample survey of passing bulgarian and foreign citizens on the border check points.

**TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD BY PURPOSE OF VISIT AND BY  
COUNTRY OF DESTINATION IN MARCH 2009**

Country of destination	Total	Purpose of visit				III 2009 to III 2008 %
		Holiday and recreation	As guests	Professional	Others	
<b>Total</b>	<b>403718</b>	<b>92251</b>	<b>79735</b>	<b>219362</b>	<b>12370</b>	<b>-15.1</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>245098</b>	<b>62750</b>	<b>11967</b>	<b>164759</b>	<b>5622</b>	<b>-20.9</b>
Austria	7697	2392	299	4800	206	-34.8
Belgium	3379	859	168	2321	31	-13.8
United Kingdom	9793	1574	755	6976	488	-5.2
Germany	18702	5028	744	12662	268	-28.0
Greece	131904	27241	5883	95246	3534	-19.7
Denmark	162	33	3	119	7	-69.1
Spain	8684	3058	368	4937	321	-15.4
Italy	8242	2342	336	5449	115	-38.7
Cyprus	1654	211	116	1246	81	-29.7
Malta	133	25	-	103	5	-56.4
Netherlands	2459	685	119	1602	53	-25.1
Poland	2572	1065	113	1381	13	-4.6
Portugal	86	39	2	39	6	-14.0
Romania	40261	15666	2760	21642	193	-14.8
Slovakia	200	17	3	179	1	-41.5
Slovenia	253	81	9	161	2	-53.3
Hungary	1964	295	154	1336	179	-26.7
Finland	31	1	2	27	1	-56.9
France	3774	1098	78	2554	44	-31.2
Czech Rep.	2382	805	43	1477	57	-37.2
Sweden	157	36	3	115	3	-34.0
Other countries from EU	609	199	9	387	14	105.1
<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>153829</b>	<b>28351</b>	<b>67477</b>	<b>51842</b>	<b>6159</b>	<b>-3.1</b>
Norway	72	22	4	45	1	-25.0
The former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	23341	2874	7722	8916	3829	-24.0
Russian Fed.	1506	94	46	1236	130	-37.3
Serbia	29454	15199	1308	12160	787	-27.1
Turkey	97259	9871	58276	27774	1338	18.4
Ukraine	928	112	87	684	45	-39.0
Switzerland	1269	179	34	1027	29	-11.6
<b>Other countries</b>	<b>1004</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>-39.9</b>
Israel	539	54	22	376	87	-42.2
Canada	90	4	14	5	67	-31.3
USA	364	29	22	61	252	-36.6
Japan	11	-	-	11	-	-67.6
<b>Rest of the world</b>	<b>3787</b>	<b>1063</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>2308</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>-27.5</b>

**ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA BY PURPOSE OF VISIT AND  
BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IN MARCH 2009**

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit					(Number)
		Holiday and recreation	As guests	Profesional	Others	Transit	III 2009 to III 2008 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>334417</b>	<b>119152</b>	<b>6596</b>	<b>71828</b>	<b>33990</b>	<b>102851</b>	<b>-7.3</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>208391</b>	<b>91343</b>	<b>2279</b>	<b>61739</b>	<b>9121</b>	<b>43909</b>	<b>-2.4</b>
Austria	5000	1734	90	2010	101	1065	1.8
Belgium	3019	862	-	505	-	1652	-2.4
United Kingdom	14898	9276	303	2424	202	2693	-28.7
Germany	12611	5618	181	3737	660	2415	2.6
Greece	72054	30876	364	18477	4525	17812	0.7
Denmark	1063	559	-	404	50	50	-26.0
Spain	2965	803	-	1502	101	559	-3.9
Italy	8064	2979	319	3090	-	1676	-9.0
Cyprus	1111	301	103	404	202	101	0.7
Malta	1202	480	-	301	-	421	-37.6
Netherlands	2532	1466	103	509	161	293	-1.9
Poland	4128	2019	215	1489	150	255	-0.2
Portugal	352	142	-	202	5	3	-18.7
Romania	56324	25929	246	18324	2422	9403	7.3
Slovakia	3097	559	-	862	-	1676	-6.8
Slovenia	833	431	-	342	4	56	0.4
Hungary	4133	2126	25	1054	-	928	2.2
Finland	606	96	-	505	5	-	-1.1
France	4457	1311	150	1945	101	950	1.6
Czech Rep.	3500	1499	180	1504	-	317	-2.8
Sweden	702	301	-	371	20	10	-12.4
Other countries from EU	5740	1976	-	1778	412	1574	-19.7
<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>103113</b>	<b>19176</b>	<b>3884</b>	<b>6823</b>	<b>20914</b>	<b>52316</b>	<b>-17.4</b>
Norway	210	144	2	47	2	15	-46.4
The former Yugoslav							
Rep.of Macedonia	23073	6749	2783	967	6069	6505	-6.2
Russian Fed.	7006	3092	329	976	2138	471	-3.4
Serbia	15023	7113	103	405	1440	5962	-31.8
Turkey	51428	1237	558	3606	9025	37002	-19.2
Ukraine	5647	536	102	446	2222	2341	-9.3
Switzerland	726	305	7	376	18	20	-4.8
<b>Other countries</b>	<b>7663</b>	<b>5602</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>1521</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>-3.7</b>
Israel	3640	2896	23	617	70	34	7.0
Canada	381	235	24	73	20	29	-11.2
USA	2969	1998	107	673	153	38	-15.3
Japan	673	473	6	158	10	26	8.4
<b>Rest of the world</b>	<b>15250</b>	<b>3031</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>1745</b>	<b>3702</b>	<b>6499</b>	<b>5.7</b>