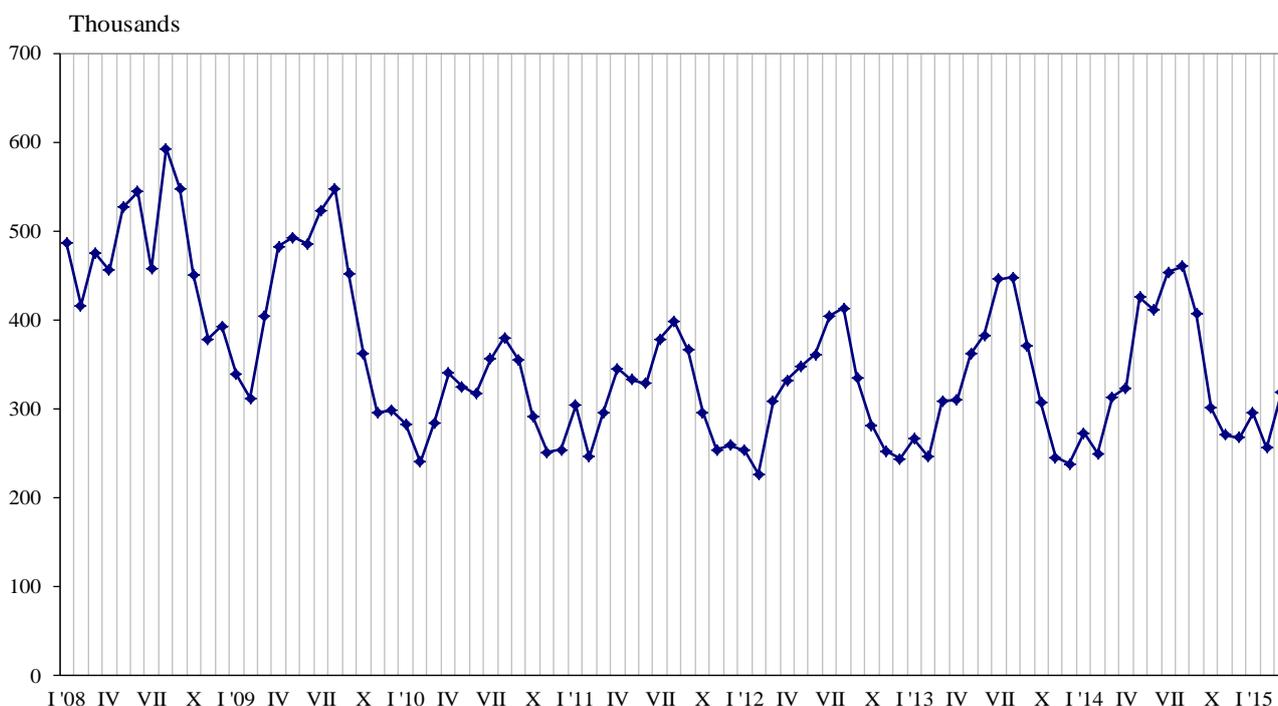




## TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA IN MARCH 2015

In March 2015, the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad was 318.3 thousand (Annex, Table 1) or by 1.6% above the registered in March 2014 (Figure 1). In comparison with the same month of the previous year an increase was observed in the total number of the trips of Bulgarians to: Spain - by 16.9%, Romania - by 15.0%, Czech Republic - by 12.6%, Greece - by 7.7%, Serbia - by 6.9%, Germany - by 5.3%, and etc. At the same time a decrease was observed in the total number of the trips of Bulgarians to: the United Kingdom - by 9.5%, Austria - by 9.0%, Italy -by 8.2%, Belgium - by 7.9%, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - by 7.1%, France - by 5.4%, Turkey - by 5.3%, and etc.

**Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months**

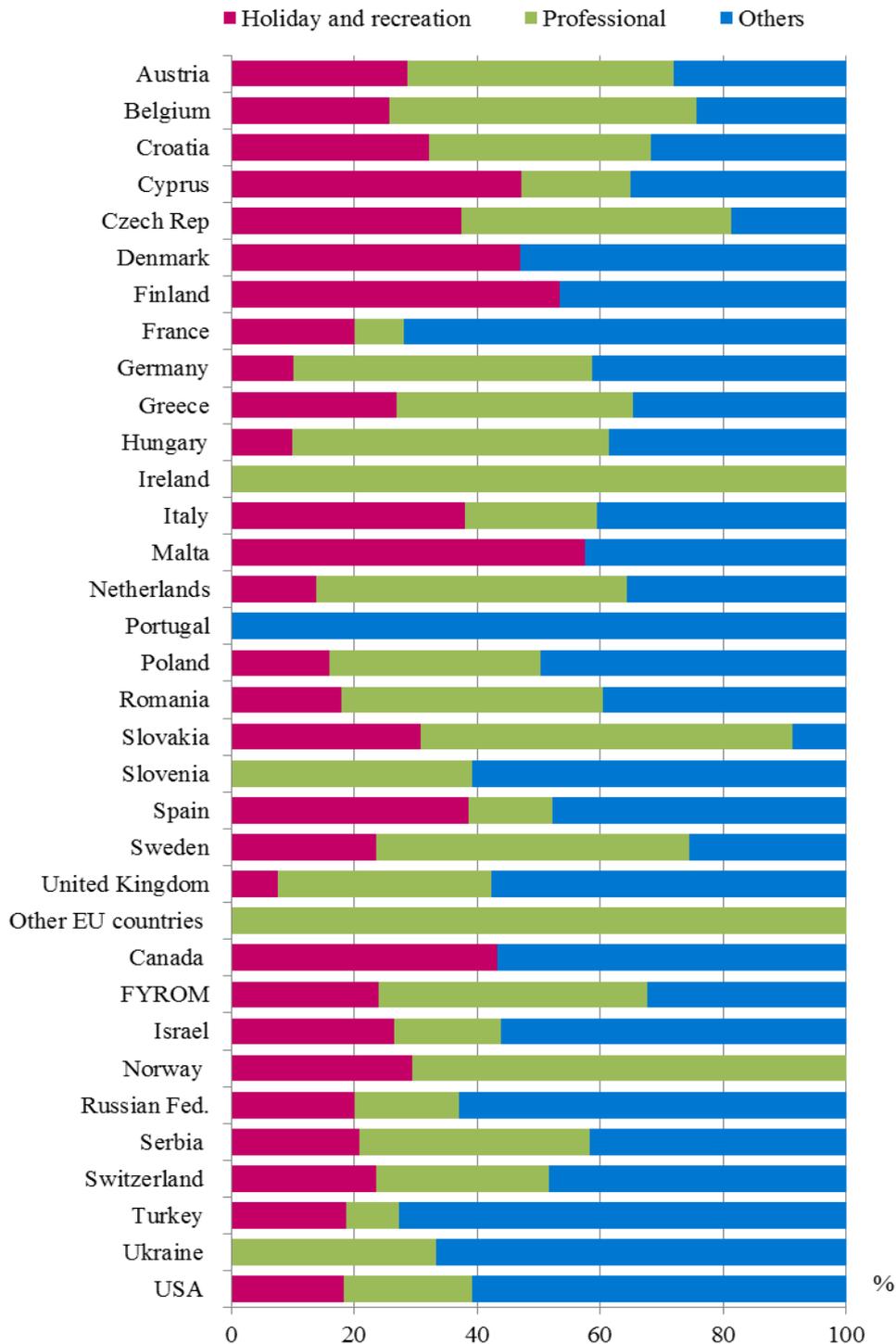


The trips with other purposes (as a guest, education and visit the cultural and sport events) in March 2015 composed the greatest share of the total number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad - 50.0%, followed by the trips with professional purpose - 28.2%, and with holiday and recreation purposes - 21.8%. In comparison with March 2014 an increase was registered in the trips with other and with professional purposes - by 14.0% and 8.2% respectively, while these with holiday and recreation purposes decreased by 23.6%.

In March 2015, the trips with other purposes formed 72.7% of all trips to Turkey and 72.0% to France. The trips to Belgium with professional purpose were 49.5%, to Germany - 48.6%, as these to Spain and Italy with holiday and recreation purpose were 38.6 and 38.1% respectively of all trips of Bulgarian residents to these countries (Figure 2).



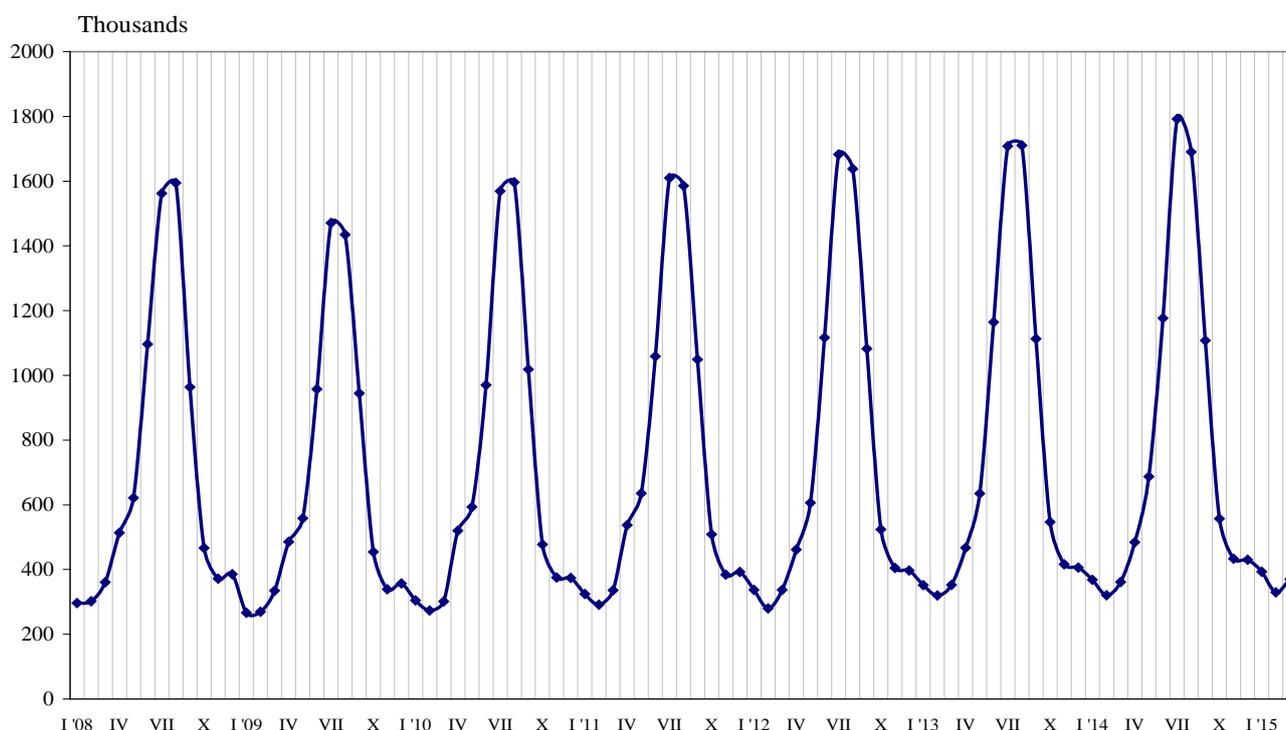
**Figure 2. Structure of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit and country of destination in March 2015**





In March 2015, the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria was 370.5 thousands (Annex, Table 2) or by 2.6% above the level of March 2014 (Figure 3). An increase was registered in the trips with professional purpose and with other purposes by 23.1% and 9.5% respectively, while the trips with holiday and recreation purpose decreased by 11.8%.

**Figure 3. Arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria by months**



The share of visits of EU citizens was 45.9% of the total number of foreigners' visits to Bulgaria in March 2015 or by 1.0% more in comparison with the same month of the previous year. An increase was registered in the visits of the citizens of Belgium - by 10.4%, the United Kingdom - by 7.5%, France - by 6.3%, Spain - by 4.7%, Czech Republic - by 3.9%, Greece - by 1.8%, Austria - by 1.8%, Italy - by 1.2%, and etc. At the same time decreased the visits from Hungary - by 30.2%, Poland - by 5.0%, and etc.

The visits of foreigners in the group 'Other European countries'<sup>1</sup> increased by 2.3%, as the highest growth was observed in the visits of citizens of Turkey - by 9.9%.

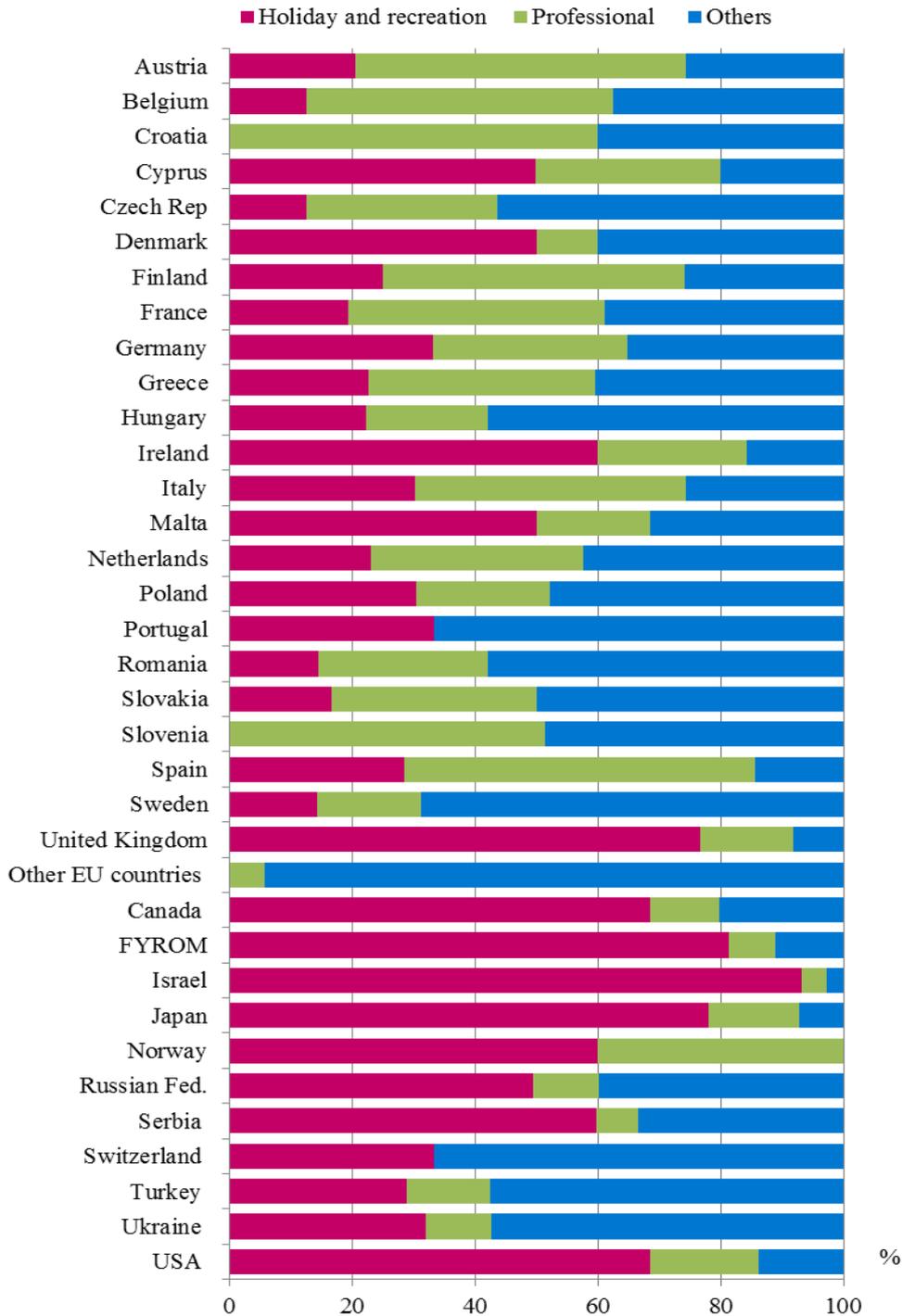
In March 2015, the predominant share of the visits with others purposes (including as guest and passing transit) was 42.0%, followed by these with holiday and recreation purpose - 37.2% and with professional purpose - 20.8%.

The visits with holiday and recreation purposes formed 93.2% of the arrivals from Israel and 81.3% - from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The visits with professional purpose were 57.1% of the arrivals from Spain and 53.8% - from Austria, as with other purposes were 57.9% of all arrivals from Romania and 57.4% - from Turkey (Figure 4).

<sup>1</sup>Group 'Other European countries' includes countries in Europe outside EU.



**Figure 4. Structure of the arrivals of visitors to Bulgaria from abroad by purpose of visit and country of origin in March 2015**





## Methodological notes

The definitions recommended by the World Tourist Organization and the Methodological manual for tourism by Eurostat are applied by the National Statistical Institute.

In accordance with these definitions **an international tourist** is any person who travels to a country other than his/her permanent residence for at least 24 hours but no more than one year and whose main purpose is not doing any activity for payment.

**The purposes of visiting** a country are the following:

- Excursion, holiday or entertainment (visits to cultural or historical landmarks, sport events and other);
- Visiting friends and relatives;
- Professional purposes (business trips, participation in conferences, congresses, concluding deals, etc.);
- Other (education, medical treatment, etc.) purposes.

Statistical data on the trips of Bulgarian citizens travelling abroad and visits by foreigners to 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 through border check points.

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

Data on the purposes of the trips are obtained on the basis of the NSI's regular monthly sample survey of passing Bulgarian and foreign citizens through the border check points.



Annex

Table 1

**Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purposes of visit  
and country of destination in March 2015**

Country of destination	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
<b>Total</b>	<b>318314</b>	<b>69396</b>	<b>89892</b>	<b>159026</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>144967</b>	<b>34387</b>	<b>52172</b>	<b>58408</b>
Austria	7881	2269	3417	2195
Belgium	2719	695	1347	677
Croatia	3143	1008	1138	997
Cyprus	174	82	31	61
Czech Republic	6290	2359	2752	1179
Denmark	723	339	-	384
Finland	1637	874	-	763
France	8250	1650	660	5940
Germany	16580	1673	8061	6846
Greece	40646	10905	15614	14127
Hungary	2304	227	1187	890
Ireland	62	-	62	-
Italy	9240	3520	1980	3740
Malta	47	27	-	20
Netherlands	2488	342	1261	885
Poland	2290	366	786	1138
Portugal	1080	-	-	1080
Romania	19734	3537	8378	7819
Slovakia	658	202	398	58
Slovenia	1118	-	439	679
Spain	8948	3457	1220	4271
Sweden	1161	274	591	296
United Kingdom	7561	581	2617	4363
Other EU countries	233	-	233	-
<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>163431</b>	<b>32592</b>	<b>33587</b>	<b>97252</b>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	25729	6160	11234	8335
Norway	105	31	74	-
Russian Federation	2959	593	502	1864
Serbia	34240	7155	12776	14309
Switzerland	797	188	223	386
Turkey	99231	18465	8655	72111
Ukraine	370	-	123	247
<b>Other countries</b>	<b>4846</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>2851</b>
Canada	886	383	-	503
Israel	1288	341	224	723
USA	2672	489	558	1625
<b>Rest of the world</b>	<b>5070</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>3351</b>	<b>515</b>



Table 2

Arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria  
by purpose of visit and country of origin in March 2015

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
<b>Total</b>	<b>370486</b>	<b>137859</b>	<b>77200</b>	<b>155427</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>169976</b>	<b>40467</b>	<b>55264</b>	<b>74245</b>
Austria	5382	1104	2898	1380
Belgium	2913	364	1457	1092
Croatia	1986	-	1192	794
Cyprus	359	179	108	72
Czech Republic	2848	356	890	1602
Denmark	901	451	90	360
Finland	360	90	177	93
France	4752	924	1980	1848
Germany	10814	3578	3423	3813
Greece	46696	10571	17226	18899
Hungary	2322	516	464	1342
Ireland	1240	744	300	196
Italy	6145	1858	2715	1572
Malta	92	46	17	29
Netherlands	1591	367	551	673
Poland	4068	1238	884	1946
Portugal	216	72	-	144
Romania	60768	8824	16766	35178
Slovakia	1638	273	546	819
Slovenia	986	-	508	478
Spain	2366	676	1352	338
Sweden	516	74	87	355
United Kingdom	10631	8162	1611	858
Other EU countries	386	-	22	364
<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>159667</b>	<b>77654</b>	<b>16813</b>	<b>65200</b>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	35976	29255	2756	3965
Norway	170	102	68	-
Russian Federation	9985	4934	1077	3974
Serbia	33162	19798	2258	11106
Switzerland	114	38	-	76
Turkey	69469	20069	9496	39904
Ukraine	10791	3458	1158	6175
<b>Other countries</b>	<b>10454</b>	<b>8708</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>766</b>
Canada	509	349	57	103
Israel	6037	5625	252	160
Japan	570	445	84	41
USA	3338	2289	587	462
<b>Rest of the world</b>	<b>30389</b>	<b>11030</b>	<b>4143</b>	<b>15216</b>