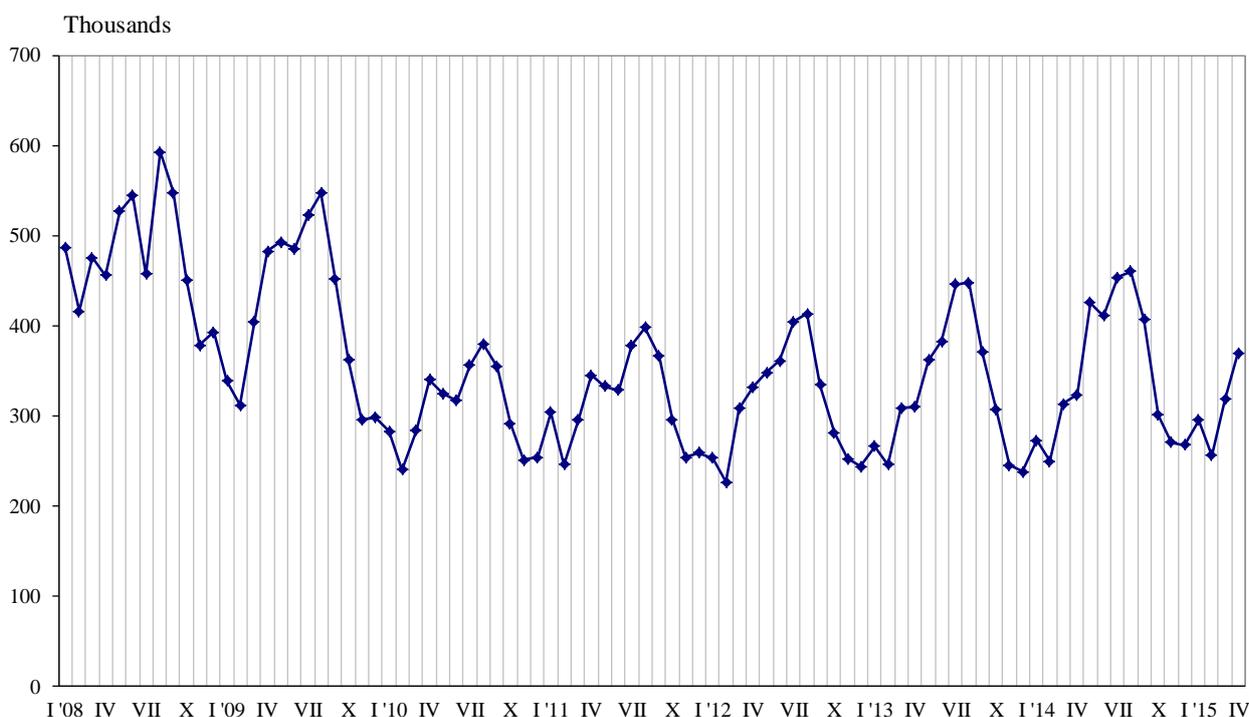




## TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA IN APRIL 2015

In April 2015, the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad was 369.6 thousand (Annex, Table 1) or by 14.2% above the registered in April 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: Belgium - by 60.1%, the United Kingdom - by 54.8%, Austria - by 39.5%, Czech Republic - by 37.1%, France - by 30.4%, Greece - by 27.4%, Italy - by 25.8%, Germany - by 24.8%, and etc. At the same time a decrease was observed in the total number of the trips of Bulgarians to: Ukraine - by 9.8%, Russian Federation - by 4.3%, Serbia - by 2.6%, Romania - by 2.0%, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - by 1.7%, and etc.

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

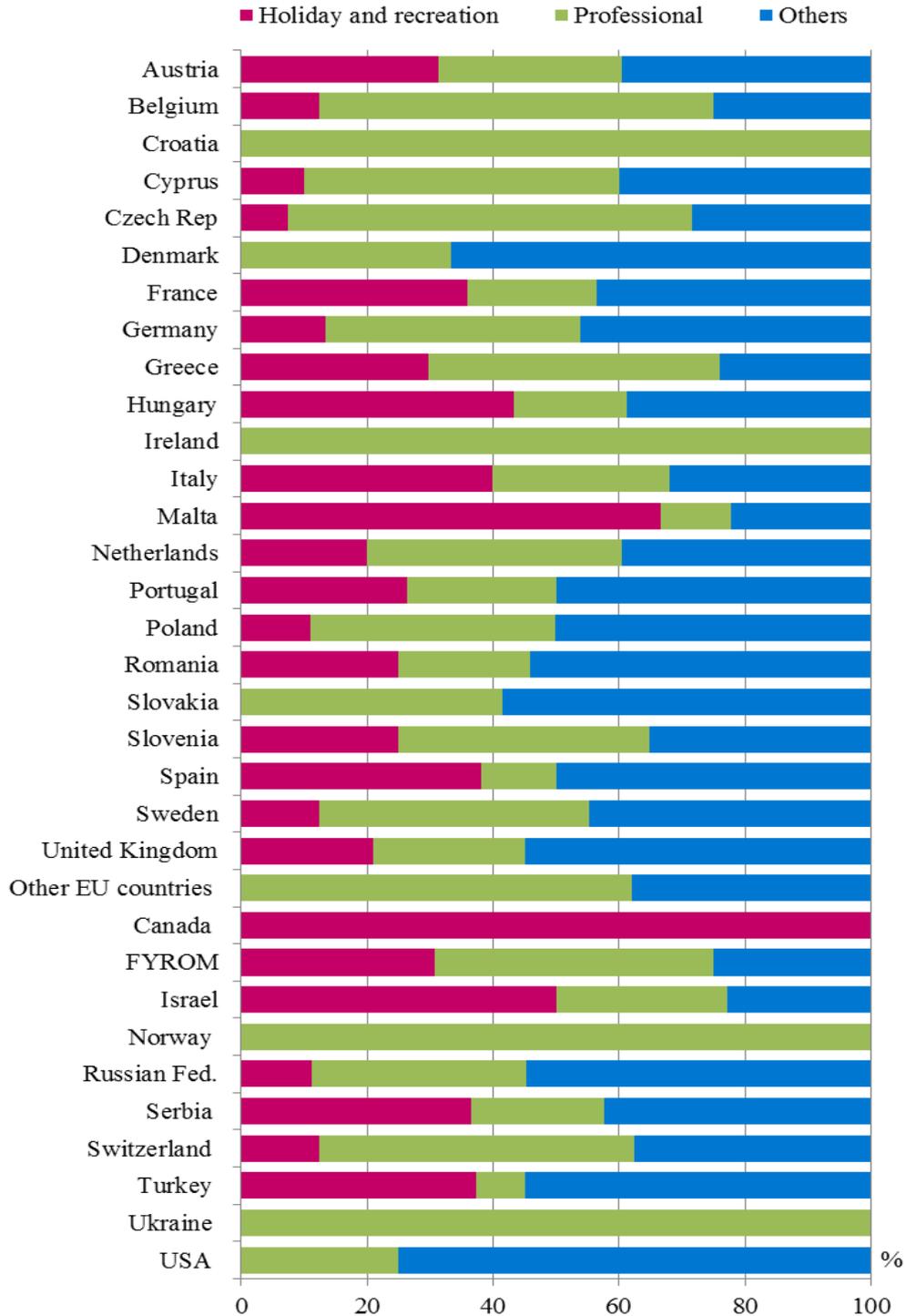


The trips with other purposes (as a guest, education and visit the cultural and sport events) in April 2015 composed the greatest share of the total number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad - 41.8%, followed by the trips with holiday and recreation purposes - 30.3%, and with professional purpose - 27.9%. In comparison with April 2014 an increase was registered in the trips with professional and with holiday and recreation purposes - by 28.8% and 27.3% respectively, while these with other purposes decreased by 0.7%.

In April 2015, the trips with other purposes formed 54.9% of all trips to Turkey and 54.8% to the United Kingdom. The trips with professional purpose to Czech Republic were 64.3%, to Belgium - 62.5%, as these to Italy and Spain with holiday and recreation purpose were 40.0% and 38.1% respectively of all trips of Bulgarian residents to these countries (Figure 2).



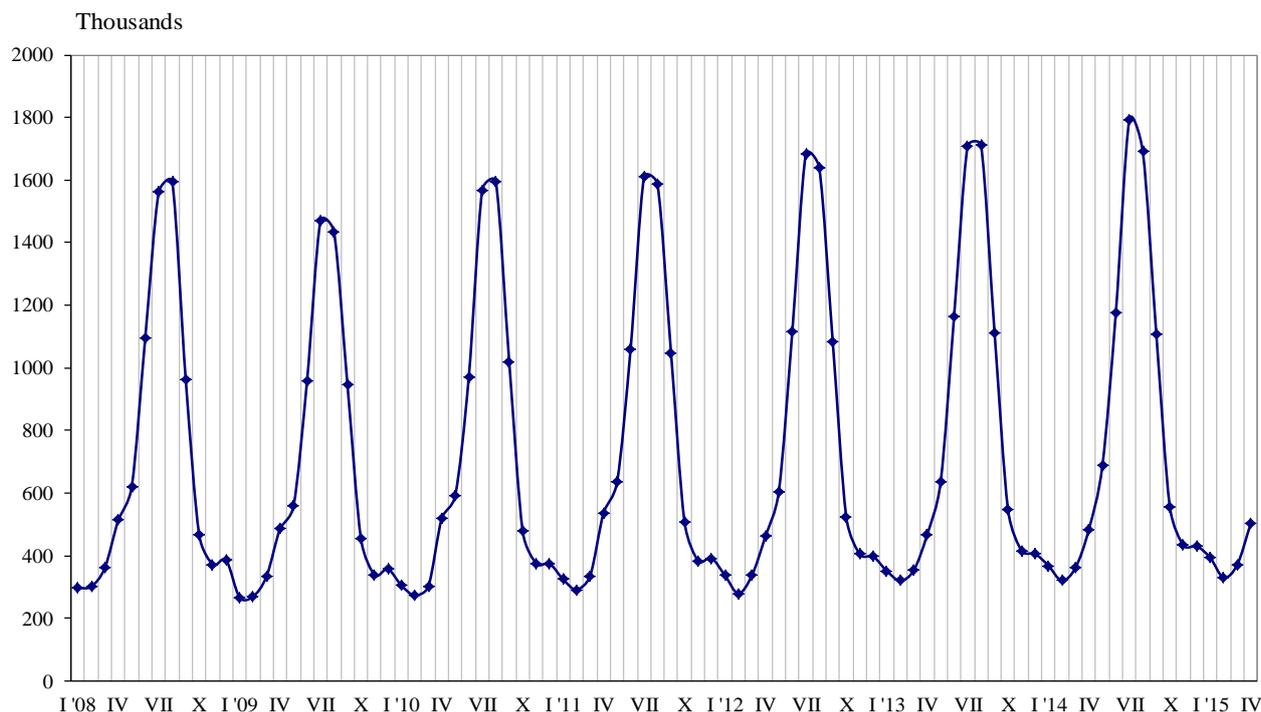
**Figure 2. Structure of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit and country of destination in April 2015**





In April 2015, **the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria** was 502.2 thousands (Annex, Table 2) or by 3.7% above the level of April 2014 (Figure 3). An increase was registered in the trips with other purposes and with professional purpose by 10.8% and 5.3% respectively, while the trips with holiday and recreation purpose decreased by 5.9%.

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



The share of visits of EU citizens was 54.4% of the total number of foreigners' visits to Bulgaria in April 2015 or by 1.7% less in comparison with the same month of the previous year. A decrease was registered in the visits of the citizens of Poland - by 24.6%, Greece - by 24.1%, Belgium - by 12.9%, France - by 6.2%, and etc. At the same time increased the visits from Romania - by 9.4%, Spain - by 9.2%, Italy - by 6.8%, the Netherlands - by 5.4%, and etc.

The visits of foreigners in the group 'Other European countries'<sup>1</sup> increased by 9.8%, as the highest growth was observed in the visits of citizens of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - by 29.7%.

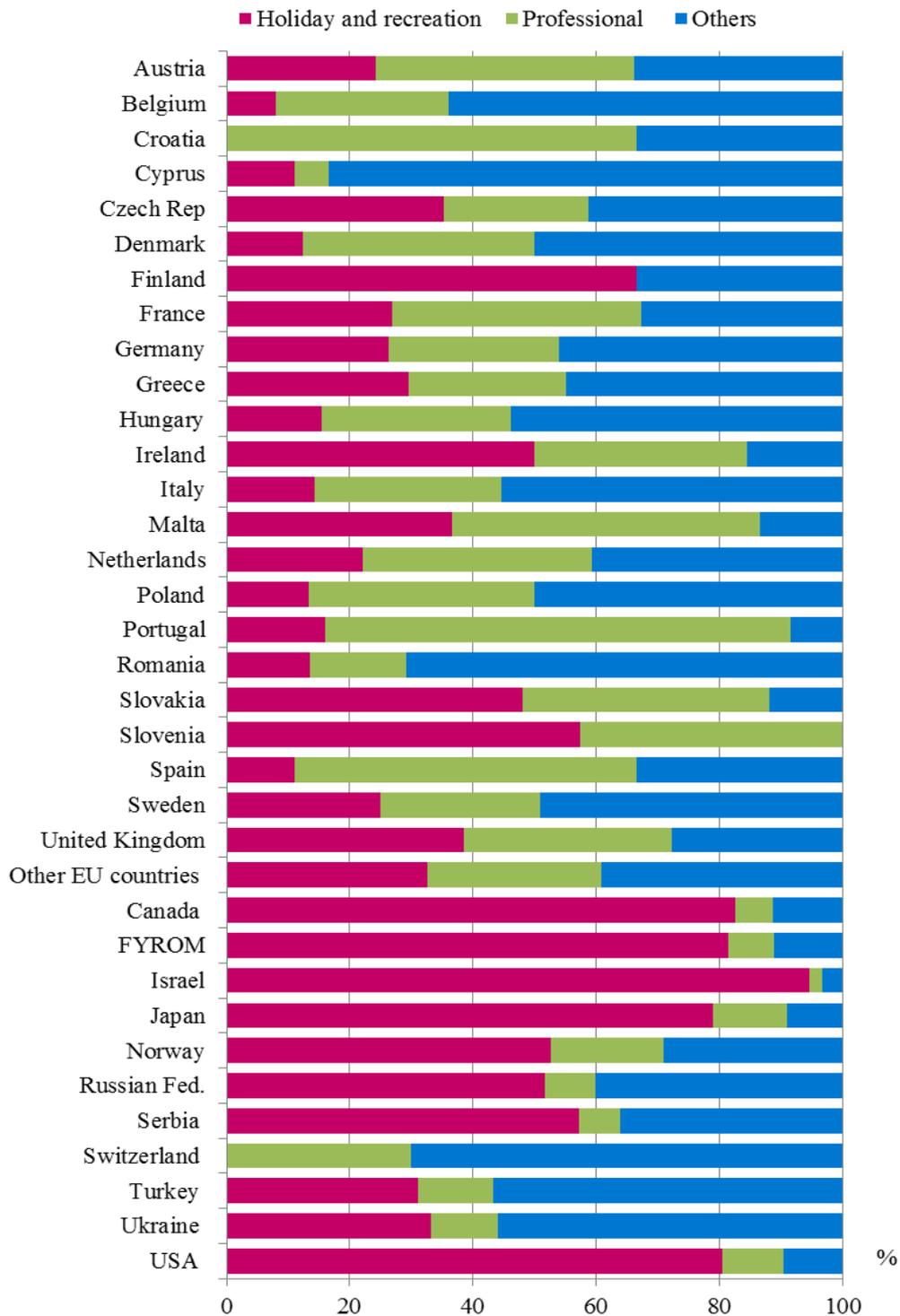
In April 2015, the predominant share of the visits with others purposes (including as guest and passing transit) was 49.2%, followed by these with holiday and recreation purpose - 33.6% and with professional purpose - 17.2%.

The visits with holiday and recreation purposes formed 94.7% of the arrivals from Israel and 81.5% - from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The visits with professional purpose were 55.6% of the arrivals from Spain, as with other purposes were 70.9% of all arrivals from Romania and 64.0% - from Belgium (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 April 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 April 2015**

(Number)

Country of destination	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
<b>Total</b>	<b>369628</b>	<b>112000</b>	<b>103013</b>	<b>154615</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>188344</b>	<b>49435</b>	<b>66190</b>	<b>72719</b>
Austria	9870	3096	2876	3898
Belgium	5370	671	3356	1343
Croatia	864	-	864	-
Cyprus	768	77	384	307
Czech Republic	5511	408	3542	1561
Denmark	1002	-	334	668
Finland	-	-	-	-
France	9344	3354	1917	4073
Germany	18494	2494	7481	8519
Greece	51909	15423	24025	12461
Hungary	4523	1963	807	1753
Ireland	121	-	121	-
Italy	15152	6060	4242	4850
Malta	1243	829	138	276
Netherlands	3708	742	1503	1463
Poland	5699	633	2215	2851
Portugal	1908	503	451	954
Romania	25137	6284	5237	13616
Slovakia	1244	-	517	727
Slovenia	1409	352	563	494
Spain	9946	3789	1184	4973
Sweden	848	106	362	380
United Kingdom	12645	2651	3059	6935
Other EU countries	1629	-	1012	617
<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>173289</b>	<b>60749</b>	<b>31864</b>	<b>80676</b>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	28098	8621	12453	7024
Norway	67	-	67	-
Russian Federation	3586	405	1221	1960
Serbia	38709	14144	8188	16377
Switzerland	803	100	401	302
Turkey	100226	37479	7734	55013
Ukraine	1800	-	1800	-
<b>Other countries</b>	<b>2386</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>1095</b>
Canada	233	233	-	-
Israel	994	497	271	226
USA	1159	-	290	869
<b>Rest of the world</b>	<b>5609</b>	<b>1086</b>	<b>4398</b>	<b>125</b>



Table 2

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

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
<b>Total</b>	<b>502242</b>	<b>168645</b>	<b>86373</b>	<b>247224</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>273216</b>	<b>55121</b>	<b>64071</b>	<b>154024</b>
Austria	9697	2346	4066	3285
Belgium	2153	172	603	1378
Croatia	1725	-	1150	575
Cyprus	1487	165	83	1239
Czech Republic	3054	1078	718	1258
Denmark	1162	145	436	581
Finland	644	429	-	215
France	5301	1427	2140	1734
Germany	20097	5307	5532	9258
Greece	53217	15726	13629	23862
Hungary	4321	665	1330	2326
Ireland	762	381	263	118
Italy	10736	1534	3259	5943
Malta	60	22	30	8
Netherlands	3169	704	1174	1291
Poland	5182	691	1900	2591
Portugal	357	57	270	30
Romania	131666	17897	20453	93316
Slovakia	1872	900	750	222
Slovenia	1124	645	479	-
Spain	3342	371	1857	1114
Sweden	792	198	205	389
United Kingdom	9880	3800	3344	2736
Other EU countries	1416	461	400	555
<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>175885</b>	<b>86877</b>	<b>17054</b>	<b>71954</b>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	39426	32116	2913	4397
Norway	76	40	14	22
Russian Federation	13032	6728	1091	5213
Serbia	36220	20727	2444	13049
Switzerland	167	-	50	117
Turkey	74915	23277	9211	42427
Ukraine	12049	3989	1331	6729
<b>Other countries</b>	<b>16091</b>	<b>13980</b>	<b>1011</b>	<b>1100</b>
Canada	1302	1076	79	147
Israel	7114	6739	146	229
Japan	797	630	96	71
USA	6878	5535	690	653
<b>Rest of the world</b>	<b>37050</b>	<b>12667</b>	<b>4237</b>	<b>20146</b>