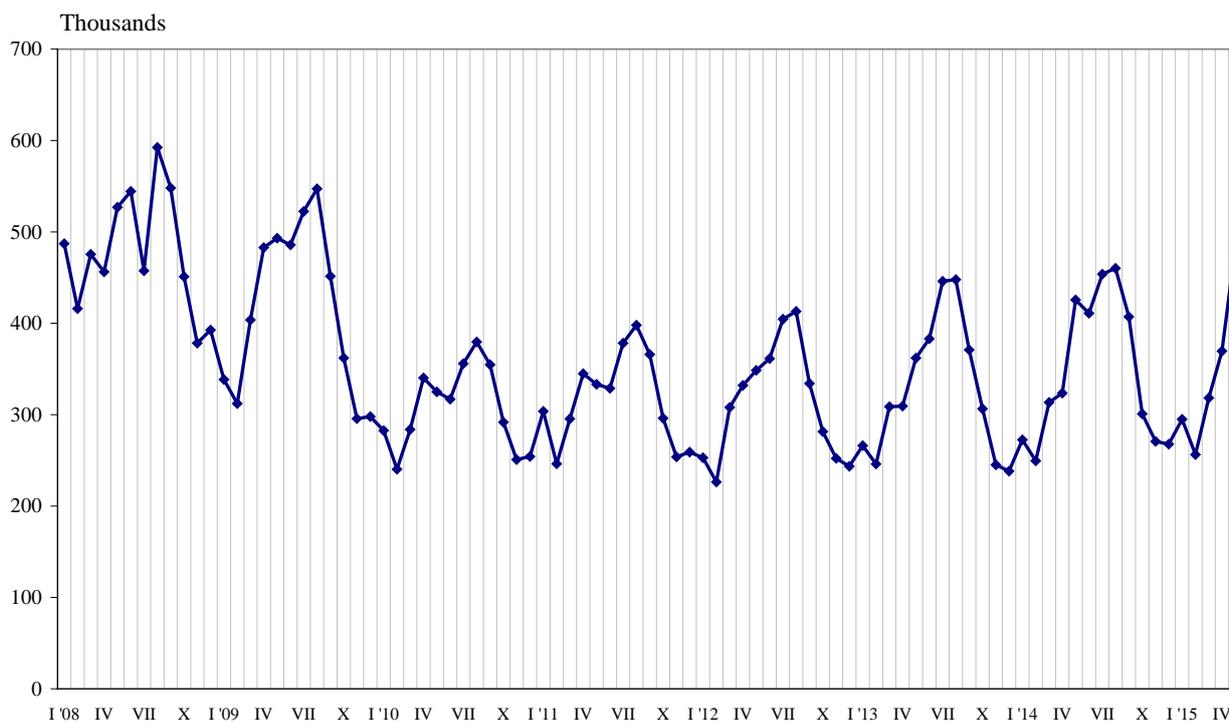




TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA IN MAY 2015

In May 2015, **the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 483.7 thousand (Annex, Table 1) or by 13.1% above the registered in May 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: Hungary - by 30.7%, Turkey - by 27.4%, Czech Republic - by 27.1%, Poland - by 26.9%, Greece - by 25.5%, Spain - by 11.9%, Germany - by 11.2%, and etc. At the same time a decrease was observed in the total number of the trips of Bulgarians to: Israel - by 32.6%, Russian Federation - by 8.2%, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - by 2.2%, Romania - by 1.5%, Ukraine - by 1.5%, Serbia - by 0.8%, and etc.

Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months

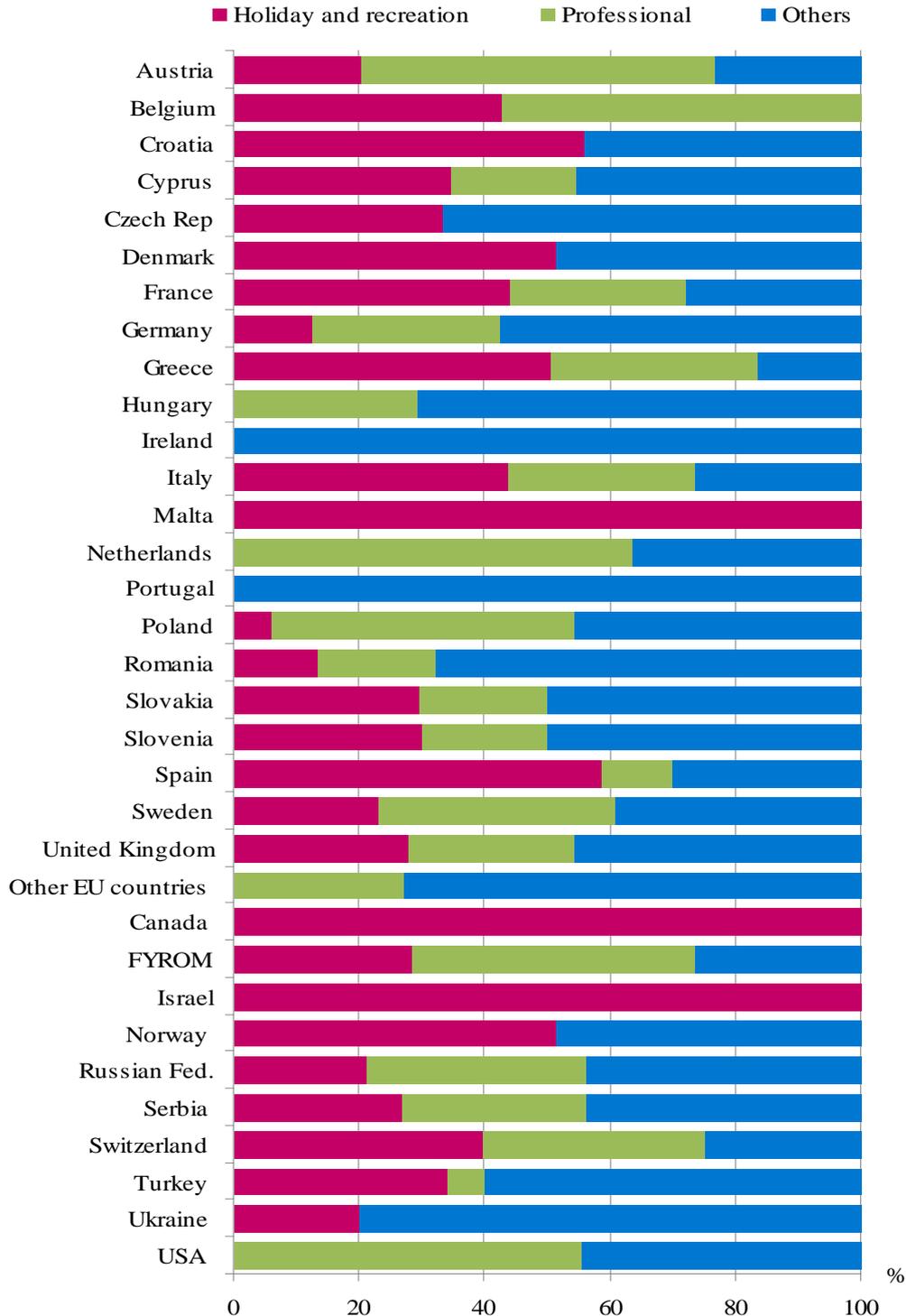


The trips with other purposes (as a guest, education and visit the cultural and sport events) in May 2015 composed the greatest share of the total number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad - 40.3%, followed by the trips with holiday and recreation purposes - 34.6%, and with professional purpose - 25.1%. In comparison with May 2014 an increase was registered in the trips on all observed purposes: with holiday and recreation purposes - 23.0%, professional purpose - by 11.2% and other purposes - by 7.0%.

In May 2015, the trips with other purposes formed 67.9% of all trips to Romania and 60.1% to Turkey. The trips with professional purpose to the Netherlands were 63.6%, to Belgium - 56.3%, as these to Spain and Greece with holiday and recreation purpose were 58.5% and 50.6% respectively of all trips of Bulgarian residents to these countries (Figure 2).



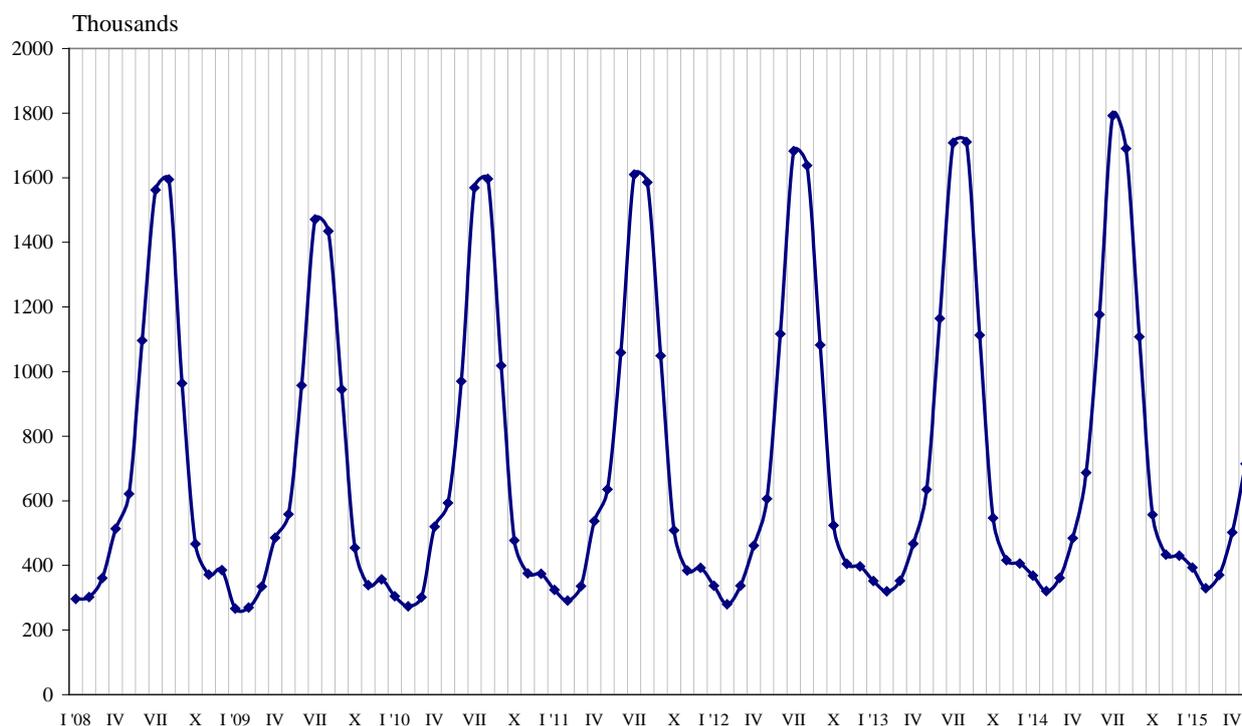
Figure 2. Structure of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit and country of destination in May 2015





In May 2015, the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria was 714.7 thousand (Annex, Table 2) or by 4.0% above the level of May 2014 (Figure 3). An increase was registered in the trips with professional purpose and with other purposes by 27.7% and 12.2% respectively, while the trips with holiday and recreation purpose decreased by 11.3%.

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



The share of visits of EU citizens was 60.7% of the total number of foreigners' visits to Bulgaria in May 2015 or by 1.1% more in comparison with the same month of the previous year. An increase was registered in the visits of the citizens of the United Kingdom - by 9.2%, Czech Republic - by 9.2%, Romania - by 7.8%, Germany - by 5.4%, Greece - by 1.5%, and etc. At the same time decreased the visits from Austria - by 54.9%, Belgium - by 34.5%, Netherlands - by 30.3%, the Poland - by 18.0%, France - by 11.5% and etc. The visits of foreigners in the group 'Other European countries'¹ increased by 7.0%, as the highest growth was observed in the visits of citizens of Serbia - by 24.2%.

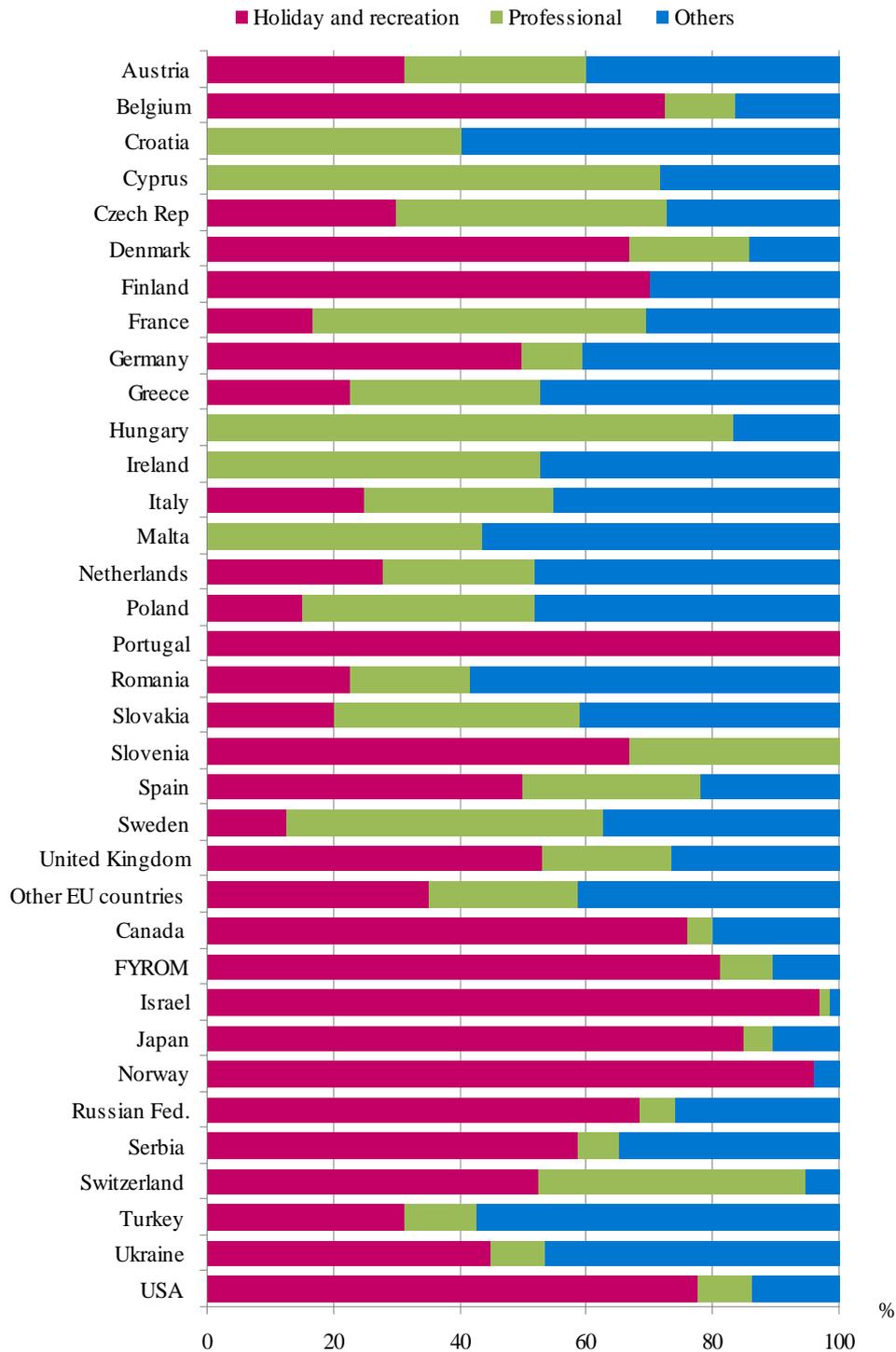
In May 2015, the predominant share of the visits with others purposes (including as guest and passing transit) was 44.0%, followed by these with holiday and recreation purpose - 38.0% and with professional purpose - 18.0%.

The visits with holiday and recreation purposes formed 96.7% of the arrivals from Israel and 81.1% - from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The visits with professional purpose were 83.3% of the arrivals from Hungary, as with other purposes were 58.5% of all arrivals from Romania and 57.4% - from Turkey (Figure 4).

¹Group '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 May 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 May 2015**

(Number)

Country of destination	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	483698	167401	121278	195019
EU	290493	104824	86435	99234
Austria	13621	2300	4953	6368
Belgium	6150	1250	3460	1440
Croatia	544	232	312	-
Cyprus	536	299	-	237
Czech Republic	4661	1608	932	2121
Denmark	1296	432	-	864
Finland	638	327	-	311
France	12054	5285	3382	3387
Germany	20646	2581	6154	11911
Greece	131285	66385	43262	21638
Hungary	4044	-	1180	2864
Ireland	227	-	-	227
Italy	16354	7154	4855	4345
Malta	697	697	-	-
Netherlands	3532	-	2248	1284
Poland	4426	260	2143	2023
Portugal	398	-	-	398
Romania	42458	5686	7961	28811
Slovakia	249	74	50	125
Slovenia	701	210	140	351
Spain	10103	5909	1144	3050
Sweden	575	133	216	226
United Kingdom	14407	4002	3802	6603
Other EU countries	891	-	241	650
Other European countries	177258	56185	30324	90749
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	34400	9768	15565	9067
Norway	574	295	-	279
Russian Federation	3222	678	1124	1420
Serbia	22793	6078	6686	10029
Switzerland	763	301	271	191
Turkey	113839	38732	6678	68429
Ukraine	1667	333	-	1334
Other countries	6553	4454	1166	933
Canada	454	454	-	-
Israel	4000	4000	-	-
USA	2099	-	1166	933
Rest of the world	9394	1938	3353	4103



Table 2

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

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	714749	271332	128387	315030
EU	433535	121918	103218	208399
Austria	8029	2503	2314	3212
Belgium	4089	2954	454	681
Croatia	1892	-	757	1135
Cyprus	1932	-	1380	552
Czech Republic	5061	1507	2169	1385
Denmark	1594	1062	303	229
Finland	1712	1198	-	514
France	5749	958	3034	1757
Germany	50633	25068	4964	20601
Greece	102849	23199	30932	48718
Hungary	4997	-	4164	833
Ireland	1602	-	843	759
Italy	11998	2943	3622	5433
Malta	330	-	143	187
Netherlands	3786	1044	914	1828
Poland	8905	1319	3298	4288
Portugal	449	449	-	-
Romania	179928	40702	33918	105308
Slovakia	3020	604	1169	1247
Slovenia	2283	1522	761	-
Spain	2706	1352	761	593
Sweden	3281	410	1641	1230
United Kingdom	21108	11160	4367	5581
Other EU countries	5602	1964	1310	2328
Other European countries	210986	108015	19238	83733
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	36607	29676	3030	3901
Norway	559	537	-	22
Russian Federation	25693	17548	1477	6668
Serbia	42217	24692	2758	14767
Switzerland	1176	616	497	63
Turkey	88024	27486	10025	50513
Ukraine	16710	7460	1451	7799
Other countries	23913	20916	1077	1920
Canada	1917	1454	80	383
Israel	11940	11551	184	205
Japan	1536	1303	72	161
USA	8520	6608	741	1171
Rest of the world	46315	20483	4854	20978