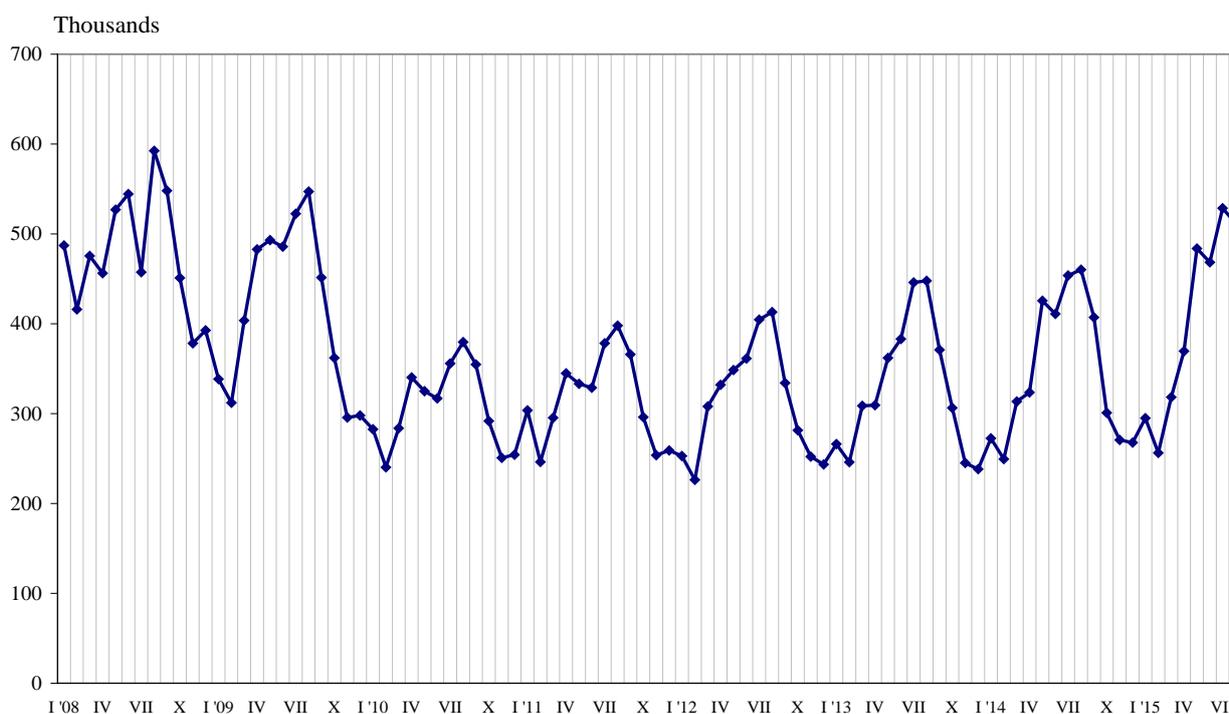




## TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA IN AUGUST 2015

In August 2015, the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad was 512.0 thousand (Annex, Table 1) or by 11.3% above the registered in August 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: Turkey - by 35.2%, Greece - by 23.3%, Italy - by 8.9%, Romania - by 8.8%, Germany - by 8.6%, Austria - by 7.6%, France - by 5.1%, Spain - by 2.6%, and etc. At the same time a decrease was observed in the total number of the trips of Bulgarians to: Russian Federation - by 31.7%, Serbia - by 22.4%, the United Kingdom - by 7.2%, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - by 6.8%, and etc.

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

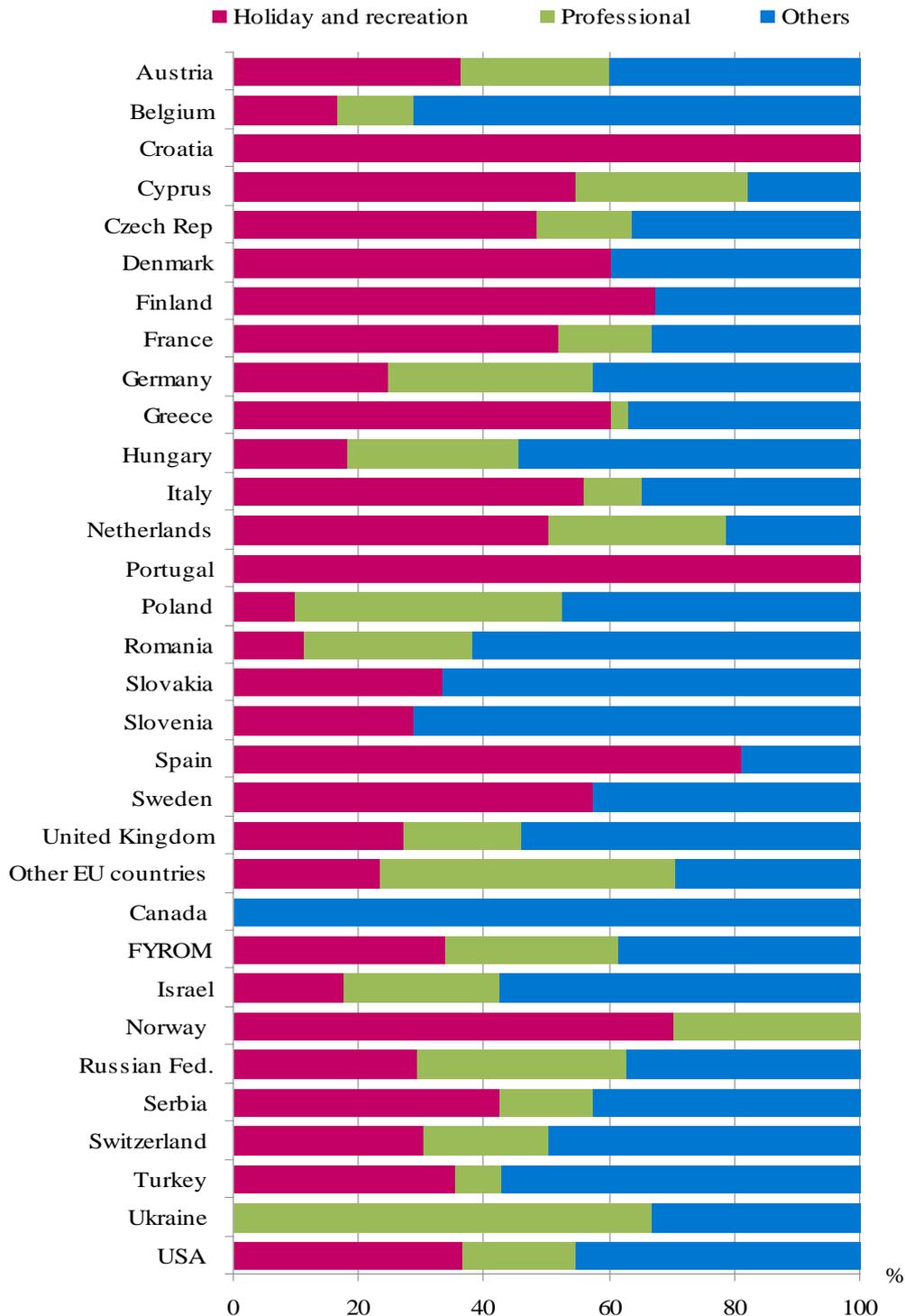


The trips with other purposes (as a guest, education and visit the cultural and sport events) in August 2015 composed the greatest share of the total number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad - 44.2%, followed by the trips with holiday and recreation purposes - 41.9%, and with professional purpose - 13.9%. In comparison with August 2014 an increase was registered in the trips with other purposes - by 22.4%, and with holiday and recreation purposes - by 13.0%, while the trips with professional purpose decreased - by 16.8%.

In August 2015, the trips with other purposes formed 61.9% of all trips to Romania and 57.3% to Turkey. The trips with professional purpose to Germany were 32.6%, as these to Spain and Greece with holiday and recreation purposes were 81.0% and 60.0% respectively of all trips of Bulgarian residents to these countries (Figure 2).



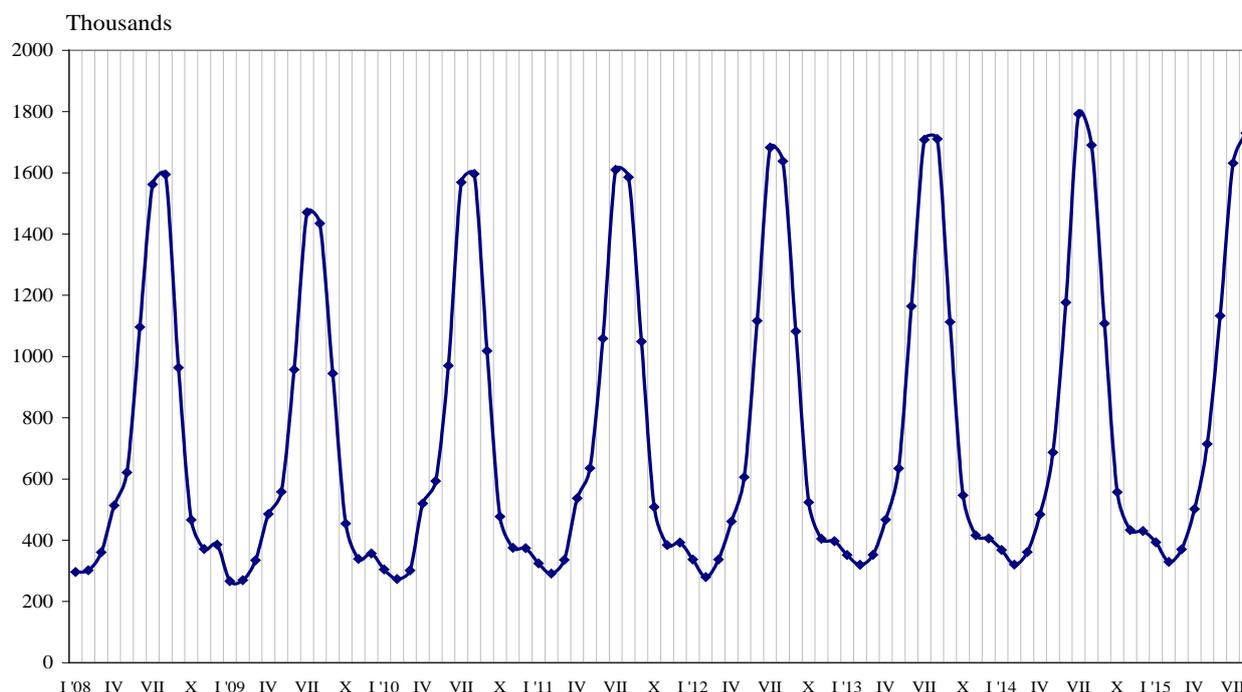
**Figure 2. Structure of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit and country of destination in August 2015**





In August 2015, the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria was 1 729.6 thousand (Annex, Table 2) or by 2.3% above the level of August 2014 (Figure 3). An increase was registered in the trips with other purposes - by 6.4% and with holiday and recreation purpose - by 0.4%, while these with professional purpose decreased by 3.4%.

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



The share of visits of EU citizens was 57.8% of the total number of foreigners' visits to Bulgaria in August 2015 or by 0.9% less in comparison with the same month of the previous year. A decrease was registered in the visits of the citizens of Slovakia - by 32.4%, Greece - by 19.9%, Czech Republic - by 16.6%, Spain - by 13.3%, and etc. At the same time increased the visits from Hungary - by 17.0%, Poland - by 9.1%, France - by 8.6%, Romania - by 6.9%, the United Kingdom - by 6.9%, Belgium - by 5.0%, Germany - by 4.9%, Austria - by 3.8%, and etc.

The visits of foreigners in the group 'Other European countries'<sup>1</sup> increased by 6.7%, as the highest growth was observed in the visits of citizens of Turkey - by 31.5%.

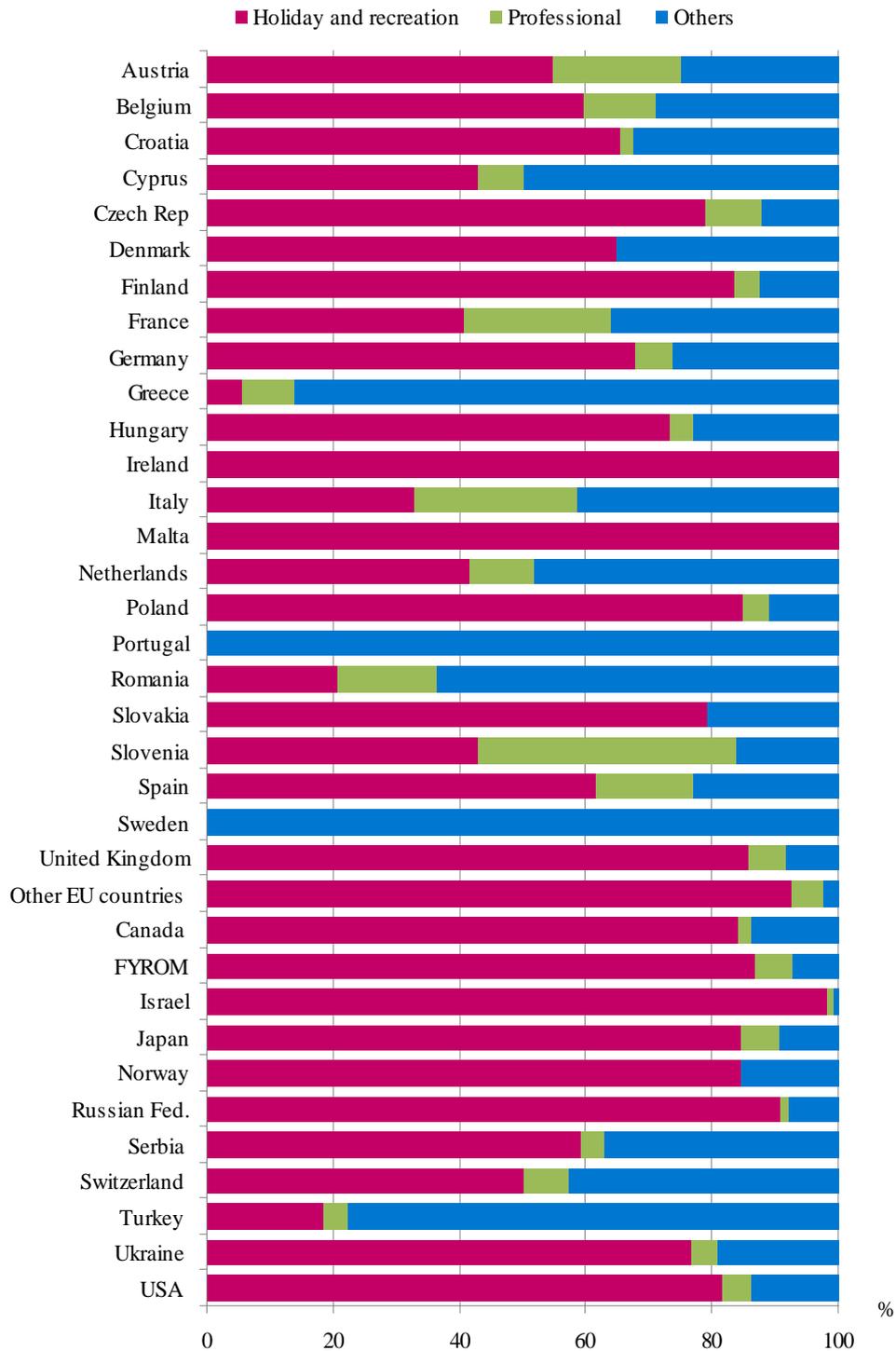
In August 2015, the predominant share of the visits with holiday and recreation purpose was 54.0%, followed by trips with others purposes (including as guest and passing transit) - 38.6% and with professional purpose - 7.4%.

The visits with holiday and recreation purposes formed 98.2% of the arrivals from Israel and 90.8% - from Russian Federation. The visits with professional purpose were 40.9% of the arrivals from Slovenia, as with other purposes were 86.2% of all arrivals from Greece and 77.8% - 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 August 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 August 2015**

(Number)

Country of destination	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
<b>Total</b>	<b>512004</b>	<b>214473</b>	<b>71059</b>	<b>226472</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>310711</b>	<b>143853</b>	<b>38880</b>	<b>127978</b>
Austria	17479	6310	4126	7043
Belgium	5243	859	639	3745
Croatia	1156	1156	-	-
Cyprus	1092	596	298	198
Czech Republic	8637	4158	1329	3150
Denmark	2491	1495	-	996
Finland	67	45	-	22
France	12282	6367	1819	4096
Germany	25001	6180	8146	10675
Greece	135760	81456	4073	50231
Hungary	4189	762	1142	2285
Ireland	-	-	-	-
Italy	16365	9107	1565	5693
Malta	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	4888	2444	1397	1047
Poland	2817	268	1207	1342
Portugal	908	908	-	-
Romania	38579	4319	10364	23896
Slovakia	1749	583	-	1166
Slovenia	3863	1104	-	2759
Spain	15093	12218	-	2875
Sweden	108	62	-	46
United Kingdom	11776	3182	2227	6367
Other EU countries	1168	274	548	346
<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>186091</b>	<b>66926</b>	<b>26412</b>	<b>92753</b>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	35640	12023	9876	13741
Norway	806	566	240	-
Russian Federation	4956	1458	1652	1846
Serbia	36593	15506	5473	15614
Switzerland	215	65	43	107
Turkey	106314	37308	8083	60923
Ukraine	1567	-	1045	522
<b>Other countries</b>	<b>3679</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>2462</b>
Canada	1132	-	-	1132
Israel	1431	250	358	823
USA	1116	406	203	507
<b>Rest of the world</b>	<b>11523</b>	<b>3038</b>	<b>5206</b>	<b>3279</b>



**Table 2**

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

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
<b>Total</b>	<b>1729581</b>	<b>933793</b>	<b>128415</b>	<b>667373</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>1000464</b>	<b>507982</b>	<b>101813</b>	<b>390669</b>
Austria	48772	26644	9935	12193
Belgium	26040	15540	2940	7560
Croatia	1588	1035	35	518
Cyprus	3563	1527	255	1781
Czech Republic	58228	45968	5108	7152
Denmark	14586	9438	-	5148
Finland	4490	3742	187	561
France	44839	18216	10509	16114
Germany	212178	144033	12553	55592
Greece	116209	6258	9833	100118
Hungary	29586	21620	1138	6828
Ireland	4815	4815	-	-
Italy	21987	7224	5654	9109
Malta	38	38	-	-
Netherlands	35786	14808	3702	17276
Poland	93339	79080	3889	10370
Portugal	1720	-	-	1720
Romania	188637	38678	29752	120207
Slovakia	16678	13203	-	3475
Slovenia	4272	1824	1748	700
Spain	8409	5174	1294	1941
Sweden	7915	-	-	7915
United Kingdom	49539	42424	2899	4216
Other EU countries	7250	6693	382	175
<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>544733</b>	<b>288180</b>	<b>19503</b>	<b>237050</b>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	54715	47489	3255	3971
Norway	2055	1738	-	317
Russian Federation	115161	104555	1661	8945
Serbia	62541	36917	2483	23141
Switzerland	3614	1807	258	1549
Turkey	239090	43799	9184	186107
Ukraine	67557	51875	2662	13020
<b>Other countries</b>	<b>48383</b>	<b>45041</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>2414</b>
Canada	3024	2544	63	417
Israel	32707	32129	270	308
Japan	1472	1244	90	138
USA	11180	9124	505	1551
<b>Rest of the world</b>	<b>136001</b>	<b>92590</b>	<b>6171</b>	<b>37240</b>