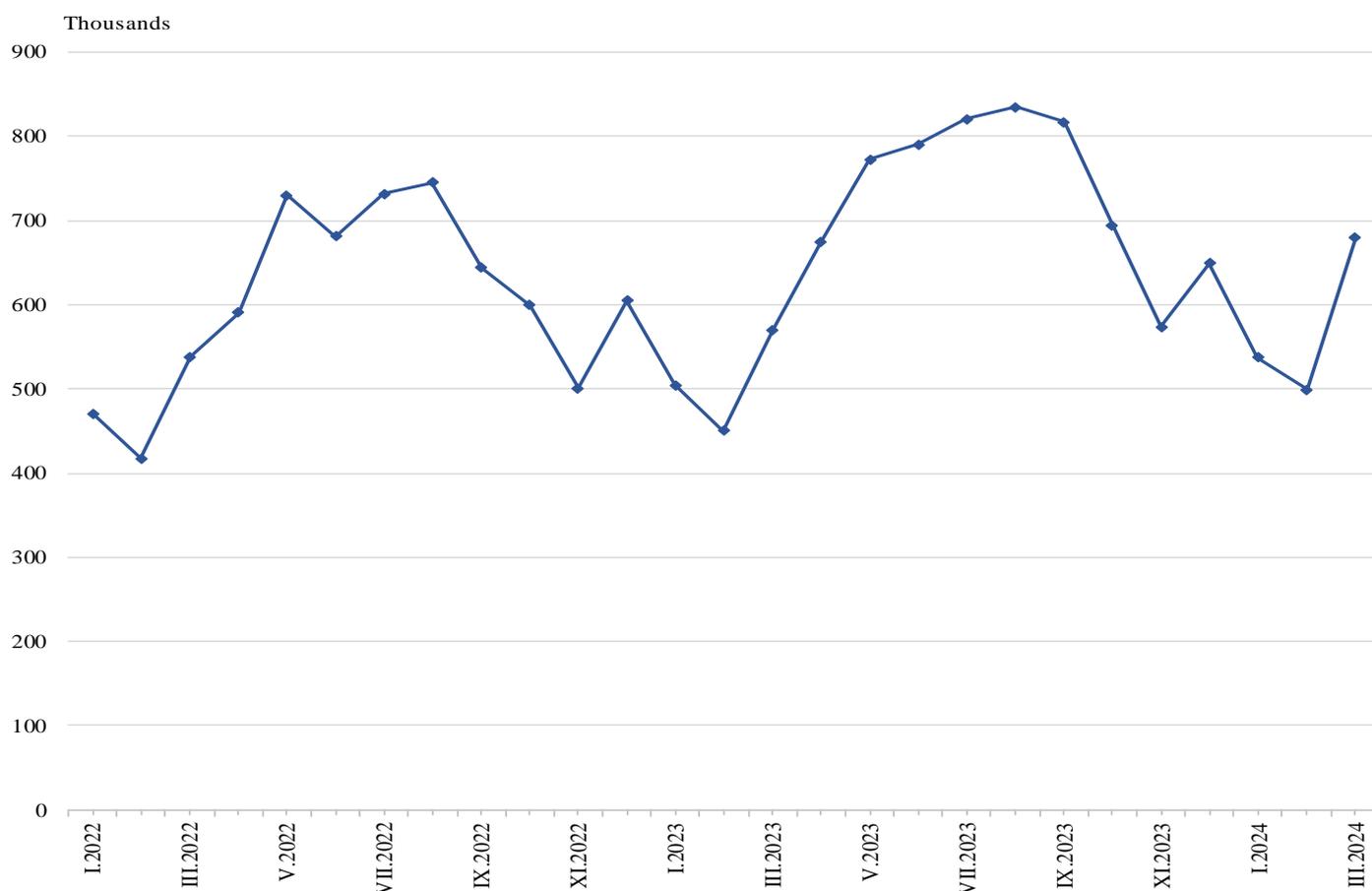


TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA IN MARCH 2024

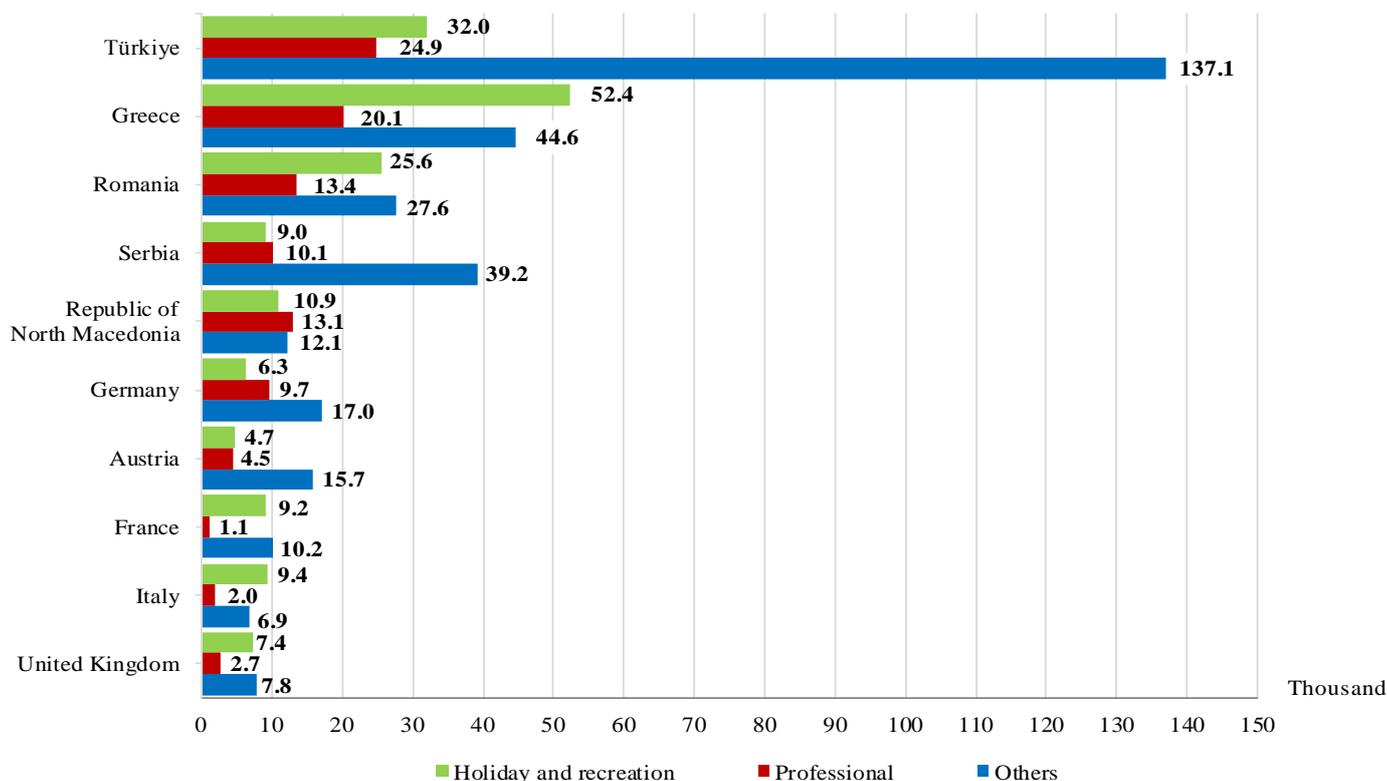
In March 2024, **the number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 679.1 thousand (Annex, Table 1), or 19.1% above the registered in March 2023. An increase was registered in the trips with other purposes (as a guest, education and visiting cultural and sports events) - by 29.5%, and with holiday and recreation purposes - by 18.6%, while those with professional purposes decreased by 3.6%.

Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months



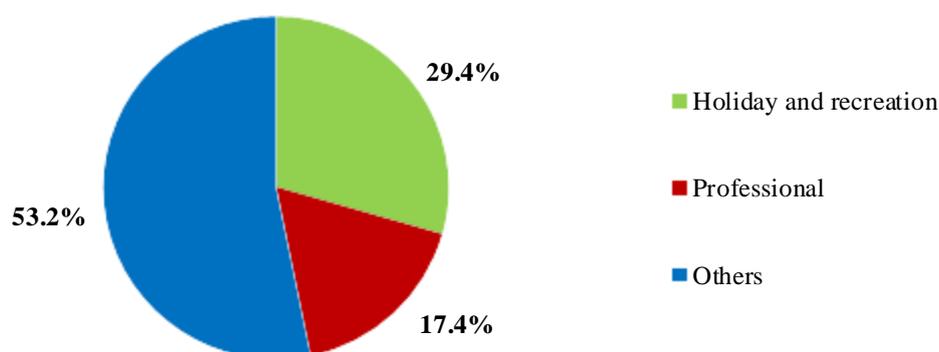
Most trips of Bulgarian residents were made to: Türkiye - 194.0 thousand, Greece - 117.1 thousand, Romania - 66.6 thousand, Serbia - 58.3 thousand, Republic of North Macedonia - 36.1 thousand, Germany - 33.0 thousand, Austria - 24.9 thousand, France - 20.5 thousand, Italy - 18.3 thousand, the United Kingdom - 17.9 thousand (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Top foreign destinations for Bulgarian residents by purpose of visit in March 2024



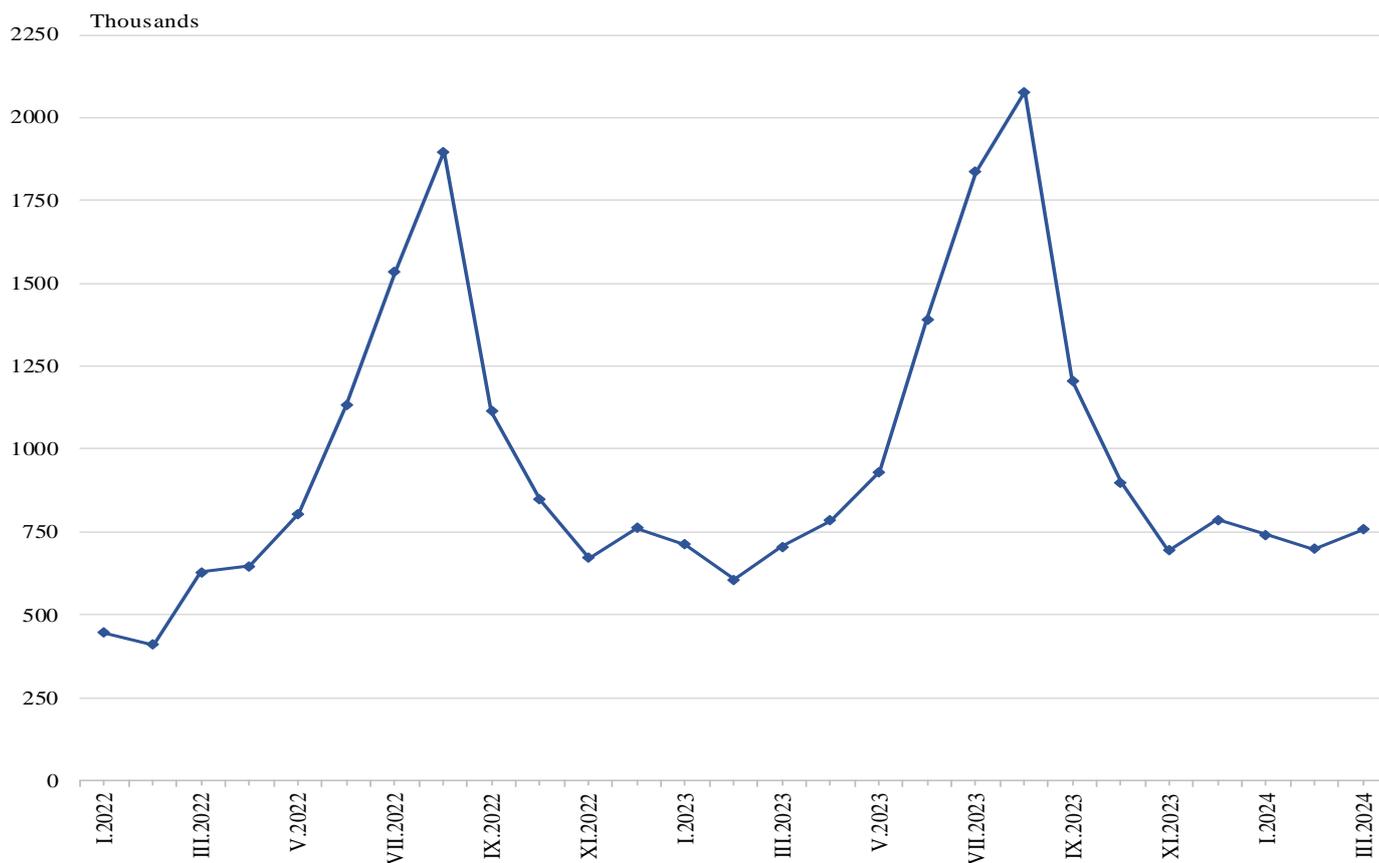
The trips with other purposes formed the greatest share of the total number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad - 53.2%, followed by those with holiday and recreation purposes - 29.4%, and with professional purposes - 17.4%.

Figure 3. Structure of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit in March 2024



In March 2024, the number of visits of non-residents to Bulgaria was 756.5 thousand (Annex, Table 2), or 7.2% more in comparison with the same month of the previous year (Figure 4). An increase in the trips with all observed purposes was registered - holiday and recreation, professional and others. Transit passes through the country were 33.3% (251.8 thousand) of all visits of non-residents to Bulgaria.

Figure 4. Arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria by months



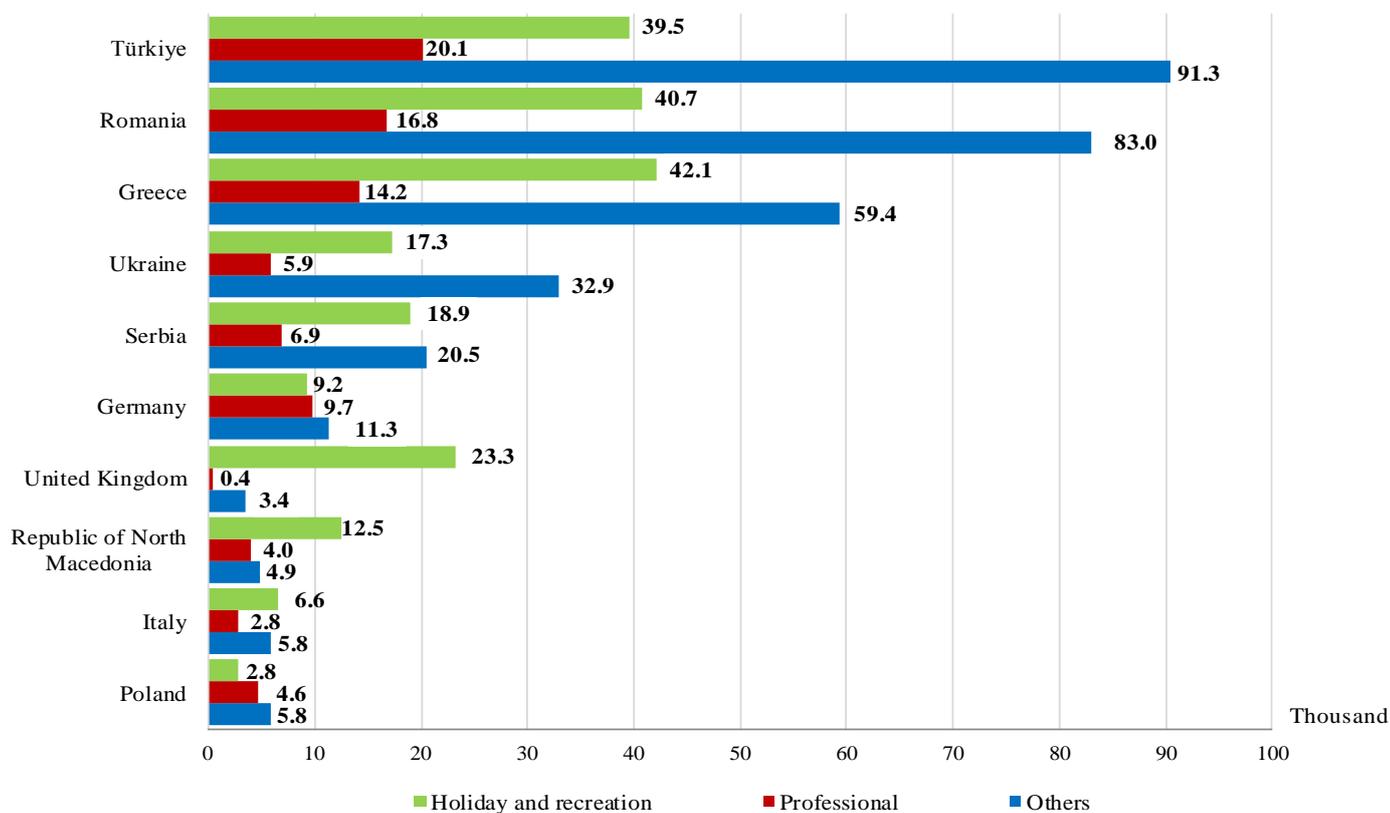
The share of visits of EU citizens was 49.7% of the total number of non-residents' visits to Bulgaria and reached 375.7 thousand, the largest being by visitors from Romania - 37.4%, and Greece - 30.8%.

The visits of non-residents in the group 'Other European countries'¹ were 310.4 thousand, or 41.0% of all visits to Bulgaria. The highest registered number of visits was from Türkiye - 150.9 thousand, or 48.6% in this group.

Most visits to Bulgaria were from: Türkiye - 150.9 thousand, Romania - 140.5 thousand, Greece - 115.7 thousand, Ukraine - 56.1 thousand, Serbia - 46.3 thousand, Germany - 30.2 thousand, the United Kingdom - 27.1 thousand, Republic of North Macedonia - 21.4 thousand, Italy - 15.2 thousand, Poland - 13.2 thousand (Figure 5).

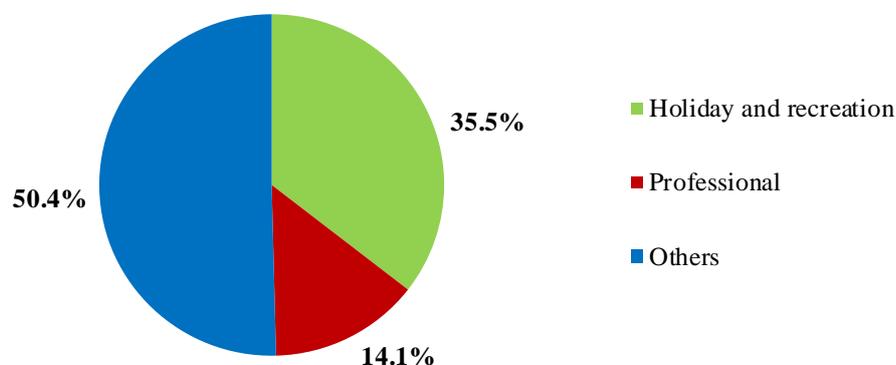
¹ Group 'Other European countries' includes countries in Europe outside the EU.

Figure 5. Top visits by non-residents to Bulgaria by country of residence and purpose in March 2024



The predominant share of the visits was with other purposes - 50.4%, followed by trips with holiday and recreation purposes - 35.5%, and with professional purposes - 14.1%.

Figure 6. Structure of visits of non-residents to Bulgaria by purpose in March 2024





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 less than a year and whose main purpose is not doing any activity for payment in the place visited.

The purposes of visiting a country are the following:

- Excursion, holiday or entertainment (visits to cultural or historical landmarks, sport events and others);
- 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 residents travelling abroad and visits by non-residents to Bulgaria are obtained on the basis of monthly information received from the Ministry of Interior and a sample survey of the National Statistical Institute among residents and non-residents passing through border checkpoints.

Data on the number of 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 residents and non-residents through the border checkpoints.



Annex

Table 1

**Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit
and country of destination in March 2024**

(Number)

Country of destination	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	679124	199830	118311	360983
EU	357833	133497	63634	160702
Austria	24897	4710	4486	15701
Belgium	12465	1157	1285	10023
Croatia	3812	1089	372	2351
Cyprus	562	305	151	106
Czechia	11207	4262	1180	5765
Denmark	3085	897	546	1642
Finland	916	458	169	289
France	20451	9162	1064	10225
Germany	33005	6253	9727	17025
Greece	117067	52347	20089	44631
Hungary	5713	1286	1039	3388
Ireland	541	271	115	155
Italy	18257	9375	1974	6908
Malta	1320	483	528	309
Netherlands	8396	3198	1599	3599
Poland	6466	2984	995	2487
Portugal	2112	1969	-	143
Romania	66579	25627	13402	27550
Slovakia	1931	548	436	947
Slovenia	1448	394	724	330
Spain	15005	5502	3001	6502
Sweden	1690	1095	181	414
Other EU countries	908	125	571	212
Other European countries	308936	60722	51512	196702
Norway	845	529	213	103
Republic of North Macedonia	36070	10930	13068	12072
Russian Federation	69	-	-	69
Serbia	58292	8968	10089	39235
Switzerland	1551	862	517	172
Türkiye	193992	32013	24890	137089
Ukraine	175	-	37	138
United Kingdom	17942	7420	2698	7824
Other countries	1550	310	285	955
Canada	384	118	-	266
Israel	146	31	82	33
USA	1020	161	203	656
Rest of the world	10805	5301	2880	2624



Table 2

Arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria
by purpose of visit and country of origin in March 2024

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	756510	268102	106837	381571
EU	375723	123199	60052	192472
Austria	6305	615	1999	3691
Belgium	4216	1061	1473	1682
Croatia	2487	816	175	1496
Cyprus	2594	924	519	1151
Czechia	3139	1003	196	1940
Denmark	1287	454	203	630
Finland	702	584	118	-
France	7419	2508	1378	3533
Germany	30227	9236	9655	11336
Greece	115655	42090	14167	59398
Hungary	4352	926	483	2943
Ireland	4416	3026	472	918
Italy	15246	6622	2772	5852
Malta	735	572	-	163
Netherlands	5761	1538	1625	2598
Poland	13223	2822	4612	5789
Portugal	1880	752	247	881
Romania	140496	40708	16814	82974
Slovakia	2197	879	137	1181
Slovenia	864	436	173	255
Spain	8023	3729	1808	2486
Sweden	2368	594	526	1248
Other EU countries	2131	1304	500	327
Other European countries	310415	115051	38660	156704
Norway	898	407	103	388
Republic of North Macedonia	21356	12490	3937	4929
Russian Federation	5302	2718	535	2049
Serbia	46281	18892	6935	20454
Switzerland	2521	543	672	1306
Türkiye	150868	39425	20105	91338
Ukraine	56133	17324	5926	32883
United Kingdom	27056	23252	447	3357
Other countries	18527	15674	819	2034
Canada	821	568	53	200
Israel	11591	11200	85	306
Japan	626	474	68	84
USA	5489	3432	613	1444
Rest of the world	51845	14178	7306	30361