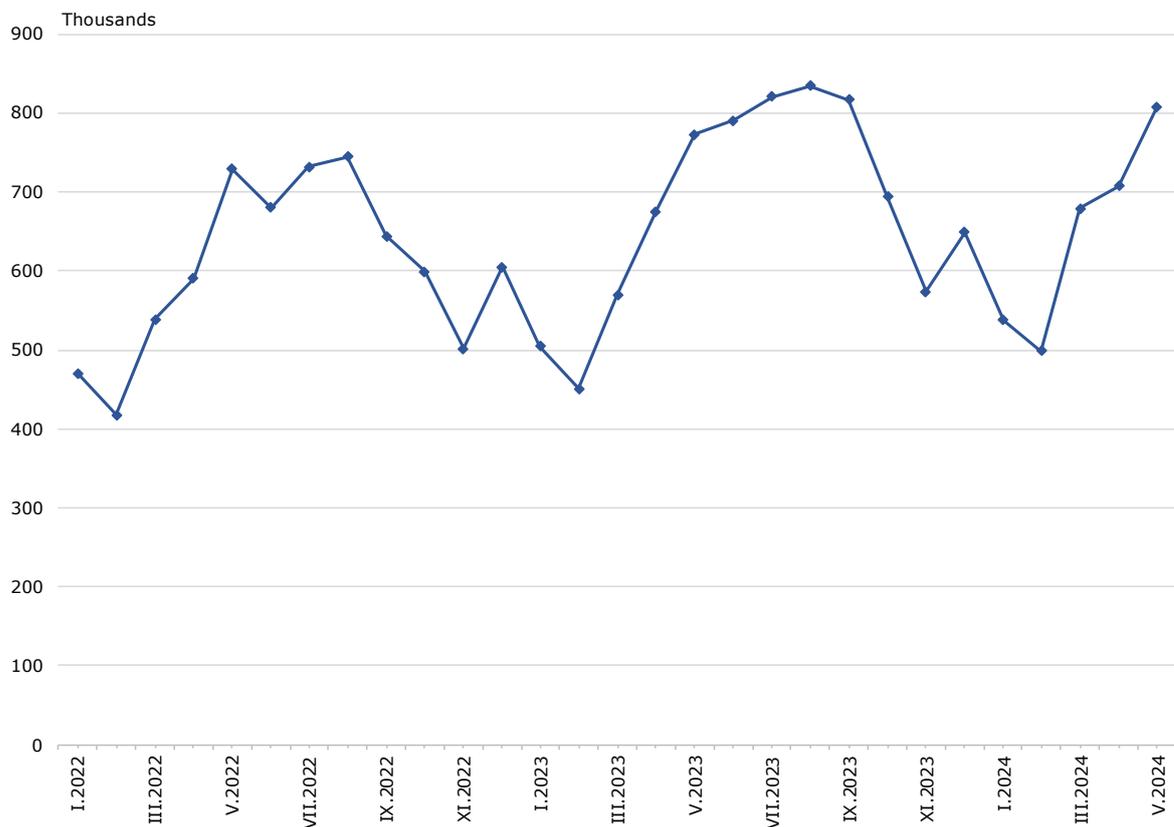




TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA IN MAY 2024

In May 2024, **the number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 808.3 thousand (Annex, Table 1), or 4.6% above the registered in May 2023. An increase was registered in the trips with holiday and recreation purposes - by 13.8%, and with professional purposes - by 2.8%, while those with other purposes (as a guest, education and visiting cultural and sports events) decreased by 2.4%.

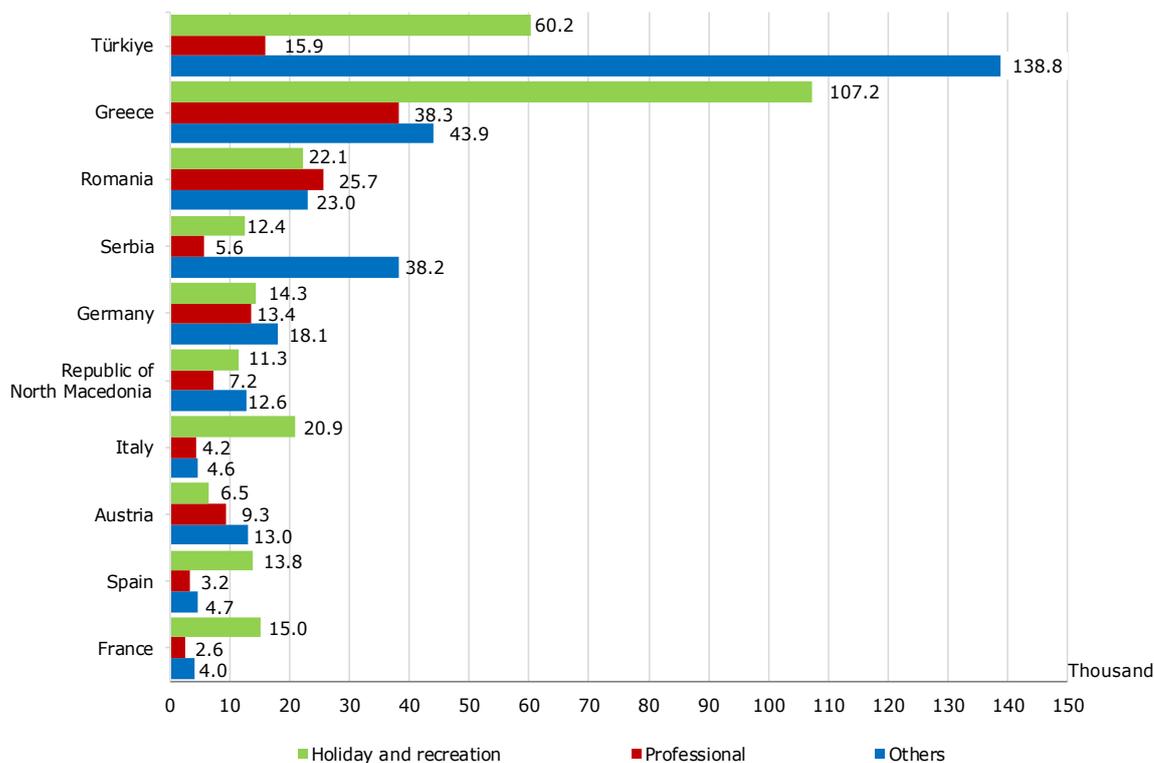
Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months



Most trips of Bulgarian residents were made to: Türkiye - 214.9 thousand, Greece - 189.4 thousand, Romania - 70.8 thousand, Serbia - 56.2 thousand, Germany - 45.8 thousand, Republic of North Macedonia - 31.1 thousand, Italy - 29.7 thousand, Austria - 28.8 thousand, Spain - 21.7 thousand, France - 21.6 thousand (Figure 2).

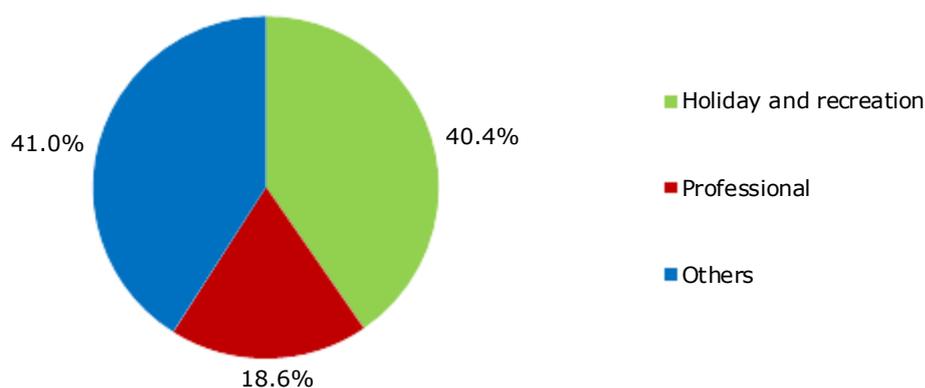
TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA IN MAY 2024

Figure 2. Countries with the highest total number of visits by Bulgarian citizens, with distribution by purpose of travel, in May 2024



The trips with other purposes formed the greatest share of the total number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad - 41.0%, followed by those with holiday and recreation purposes - 40.4%, and with professional purposes - 18.6%.

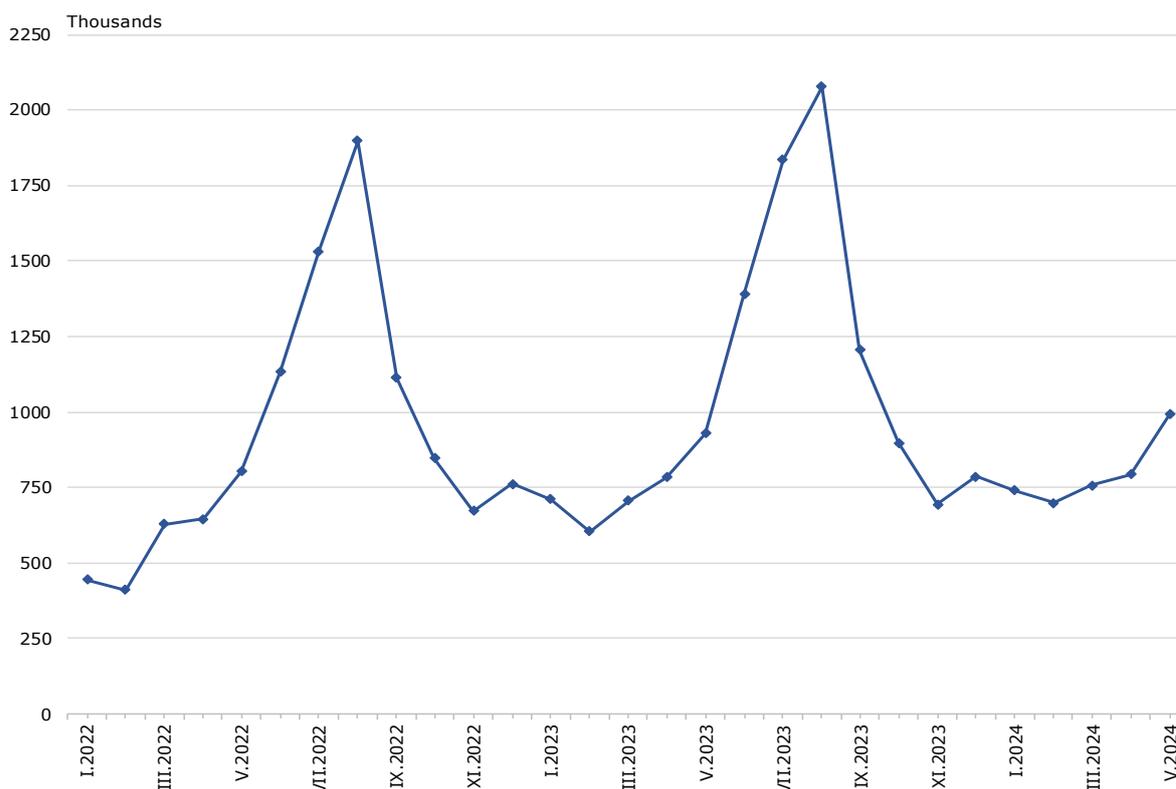
Figure 3. Structure of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit in May 2024



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

In May 2024, **the number of visits of non-residents to Bulgaria** was 992.4 thousand (Annex, Table 2), or 6.6% 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 35.4% (351.0 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 52.3% of the total number of non-residents' visits to Bulgaria and reached 518.5 thousand, the largest being by visitors from Romania - 42.6%, and Greece - 23.6%.

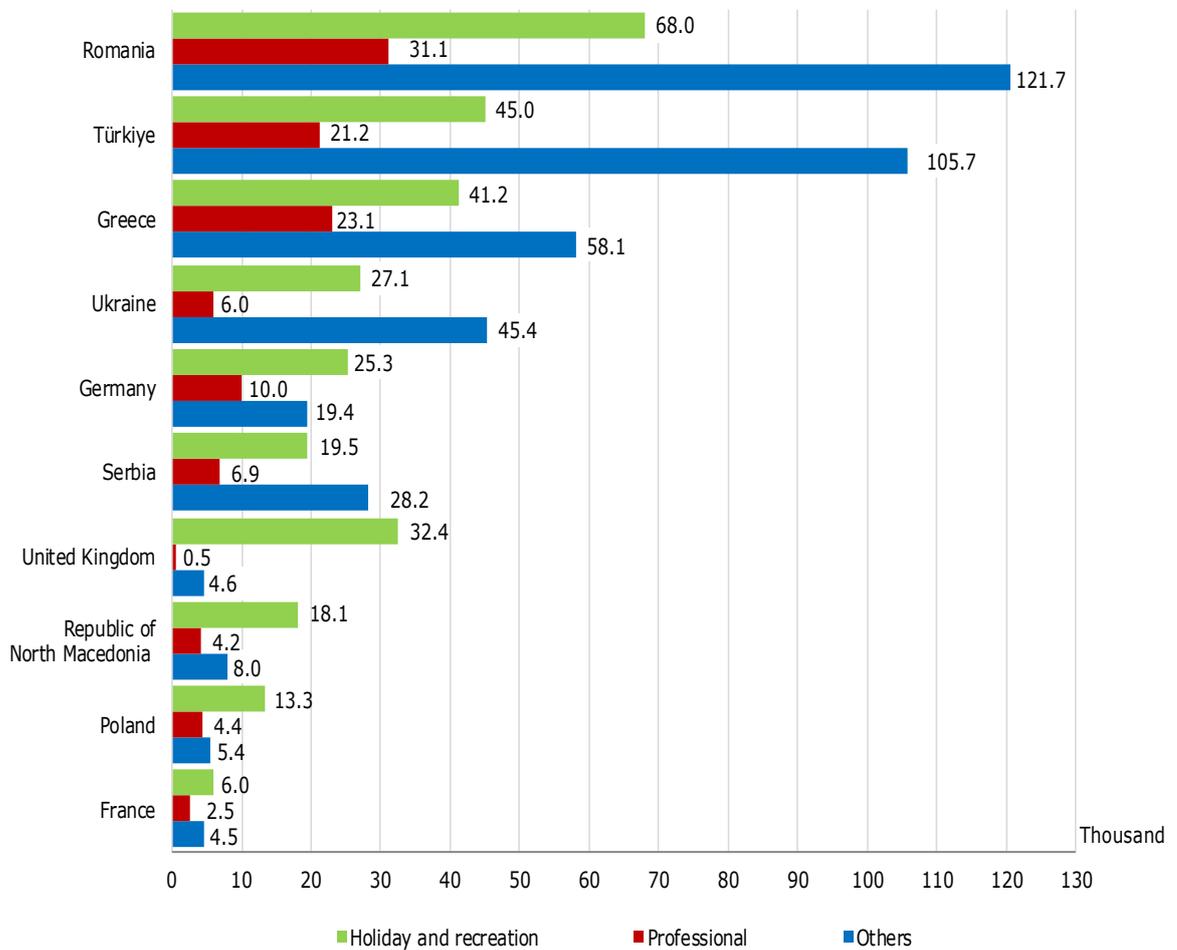
The visits of non-residents in the group 'Other European countries'¹ were 385.1 thousand, or 38.8% of all visits to Bulgaria. The highest registered number of visits was from Türkiye - 171.9 thousand, or 44.6% in this group.

Most visits to Bulgaria were from: Romania - 220.8 thousand, Türkiye - 171.9 thousand, Greece - 122.4 thousand, Ukraine - 78.5 thousand, Germany - 54.7 thousand, Serbia - 54.6 thousand, the United Kingdom - 37.5 thousand, Republic of North Macedonia - 30.3 thousand, Poland - 23.1 thousand, France - 13.0 thousand (Figure 5).

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

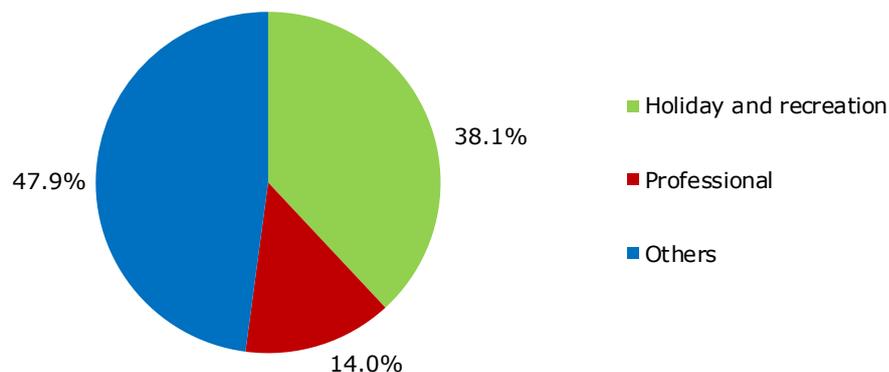
TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA IN MAY 2024

Figure 5. Countries with the highest total number of visits to Bulgaria, with distribution by purpose of travel, in May 2024



The predominant share of the visits was with other purposes - 47.9%, followed by trips with holiday and recreation purposes - 38.1%, and with professional purposes - 14.0%.

Figure 6. Structure of visits of non-residents to Bulgaria by purpose in May 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 and holiday;
- Professional purposes (business trips, participation in conferences, congresses, concluding deals, etc.);
- Other (as a guest, education and visiting cultural and sports events, 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.

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

Annex

Table 1

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

(Number)

Country of destination	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	808332	326251	150641	331440
EU	465631	227437	110718	127476
Austria	28777	6537	9297	12943
Belgium	11592	5474	3542	2576
Croatia	2485	1242	289	954
Cyprus	528	208	176	144
Czechia	9848	6929	1459	1460
Denmark	2884	2013	577	294
Finland	495	157	107	231
France	21638	15015	2610	4013
Germany	45814	14263	13398	18153
Greece	189395	107175	38318	43902
Hungary	4281	1835	1210	1236
Ireland	1076	349	512	215
Italy	29694	20883	4220	4591
Malta	1234	824	307	103
Netherlands	7470	2306	1660	3504
Poland	5772	1399	1924	2449
Portugal	1916	962	194	760
Romania	70796	22061	25744	22991
Slovakia	2422	1020	611	791
Slovenia	3491	1939	576	976
Spain	21748	13839	3163	4746
Sweden	1485	693	487	305
Other EU countries	790	314	337	139
Other European countries	324800	88932	36363	199505
Norway	754	501	116	137
Republic of North Macedonia	31098	11353	7177	12568
Russian Federation	174	-	-	174
Serbia	56155	12354	5616	38185
Switzerland	2319	1249	378	692
Türkiye	214907	60179	15886	138842
Ukraine	219	-	-	219
United Kingdom	19174	3296	7190	8688
Other countries	2856	784	547	1525
Canada	669	267	105	297
Israel	190	-	84	106
USA	1997	517	358	1122
Rest of the world	15045	9098	3013	2934

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

Table 2

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

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	992356	378682	138537	475137
EU	518539	194667	89809	234063
Austria	8595	2481	1627	4487
Belgium	5395	1587	1704	2104
Croatia	2727	1008	812	907
Cyprus	1817	608	865	344
Czechia	4392	1732	1196	1464
Denmark	2175	947	579	649
Finland	2424	1804	236	384
France	12963	5986	2493	4484
Germany	54724	25310	9998	19416
Greece	122376	41174	23094	58108
Hungary	6169	1928	2228	2013
Ireland	4066	2323	1183	560
Italy	12455	8096	1868	2491
Malta	168	77	91	-
Netherlands	10837	3709	1068	6060
Poland	23140	13260	4420	5460
Portugal	1547	774	562	211
Romania	220810	67985	31100	121725
Slovakia	2275	569	346	1360
Slovenia	1502	901	250	351
Spain	9340	6502	2224	614
Sweden	4240	2937	1060	243
Other EU countries	4402	2969	805	628
Other European countries	385129	149047	40170	195912
Norway	2444	1507	263	674
Republic of North Macedonia	30309	18076	4245	7988
Russian Federation	6837	4076	492	2269
Serbia	54583	19498	6882	28203
Switzerland	3057	1362	679	1016
Türkiye	171934	45008	21169	105757
Ukraine	78489	27104	5961	45424
United Kingdom	37476	32416	479	4581
Other countries	18731	15358	487	2886
Canada	1660	1247	50	363
Israel	8623	8179	95	349
Japan	758	632	32	94
USA	7690	5300	310	2080
Rest of the world	69957	19610	8071	42276