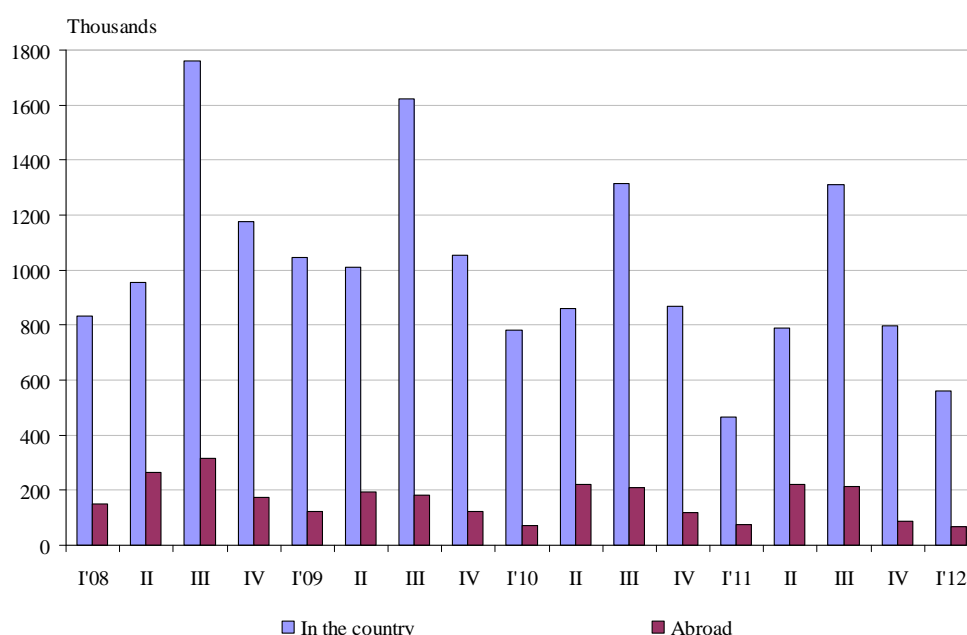




TOURIST TRIPS AND TOURISM-RELATED EXPENDITURES OF THE POPULATION IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2012

According to preliminary data of the National Statistical Institute in the first quarter of 2012, 627.4 thousand Bulgarian residents¹ realized tourist trips, 89.0% of them were travelled in the country and 11.0% - abroad.

Figure 1. Persons of 15 years and older travelled with tourist purpose by quarters

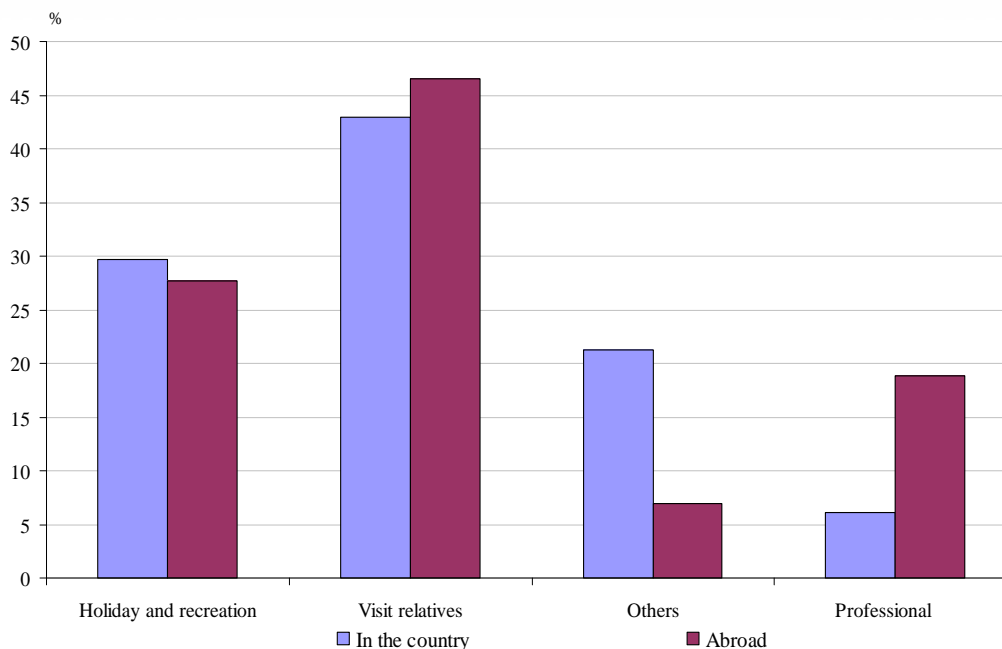


Compared to the same quarter of 2011 the total number of the persons aged 15 and older travelled with private purpose increased by 15.7%, as the number of the Bulgarian residents travelled in the country grew by 19.9%, while in the number of persons travelled abroad decreased by 13.7 %. An increase was also observed in the number of persons travelled with professional purpose - by 24.6% as in the country increased by 30.7% and abroad by 10.8%.

¹ The objects of the survey are the residents of 15 years age and over.



Figure 2. Structure of the persons of 15 years and older travelled with tourist purpose by reasons in the country and abroad in the first quarter 2012



According to the persons aged 15 and older, the main reasons for trip in the country or in abroad were “visits relatives” and “holiday and recreation” pointed out respectively by 43.3 and 29.5%. The relative share of the persons travelled with purpose visits relatives abroad was 46.5% and those travelled in the country with the same purpose was 42.9%.

Table 1. Persons of 15 years and older travelled with tourist purpose by reasons in the first quarter of 2011

| Destination of trips | Total | Reasons for trip | | | |
|----------------------|--------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| | | Private | | | Professional |
| | | Holiday and recreation | Visit relatives | Others ² | |
| Number | | | | | |
| Total | 627375 | 184973 | 271507 | 124265 | 46630 |
| In the country | 559855 | 166262 | 240102 | 119567 | 33924 |
| Abroad | 67520 | 18711 | 31405 | 4698 | 12706 |
| Structure - % | | | | | |
| Total | 100 | 29.5 | 43.3 | 19.8 | 7.4 |
| In the country | 100 | 29.7 | 42.9 | 21.3 | 6.1 |
| Abroad | 100 | 27.7 | 46.5 | 7.0 | 18.8 |

² In column "others" are included followed reasons for trip - "health and medical care", "education and training", "religion" and "other".



The travelled residents aged 25-44 were the highest part (41.9%) of the total number of the residents travelled in the first quarter of 2012. The highest was the share of Bulgarians age group 25-34 years old travelling with private purpose - 21.8%, while travelled residents with professional purpose were age group 35-44 years - 34.9%.

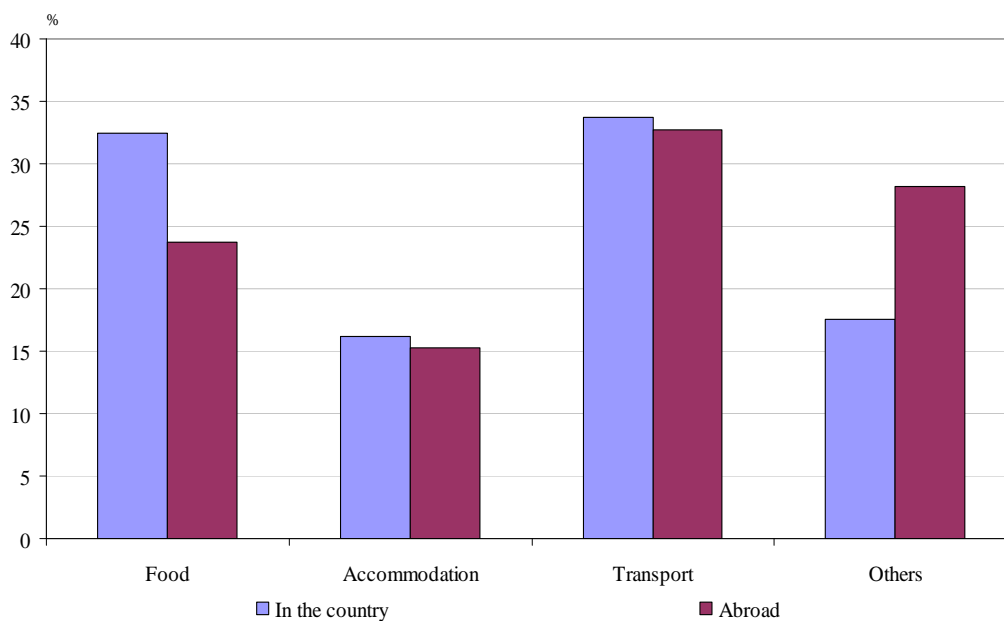
**Table 2. Persons of 15 years and older travelled with tourist purpose
by type of trip in the first quarter of 2012**

| Age (Years) | Total | Private | Professional |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Number | | | |
| Total | 627375 | 580745 | 46630 |
| 15-24 | 116053 | 114125 | 1928 |
| 25-34 | 135629 | 126692 | 8937 |
| 35-44 | 127541 | 111283 | 16258 |
| 45-54 | 103595 | 92757 | 10838 |
| 55-64 | 88362 | 80747 | 7616 |
| 65 and over | 56194 | 55141 | 1053 |
| Structure - % | | | |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 15-24 | 18.5 | 19.7 | 4.1 |
| 25-34 | 21.6 | 21.8 | 19.2 |
| 35-44 | 20.3 | 19.1 | 34.9 |
| 45-54 | 16.5 | 16.0 | 23.2 |
| 55-64 | 14.1 | 13.9 | 16.3 |
| 65 and over | 9.0 | 9.5 | 2.3 |



In the structure of tourist trips' expenditure by type with highest relative share was the expenditure on transport both in domestic trips - 33.8% and in outbound trips - 32.7%.

Figure 3. Structure of the expenditure by type for domestic and outbound tourist trips in the first quarter 2012



In the first quarter of 2012 a person of 15 years and older spent on the average 215.9 BGN for its private domestic trip and 953.8 BGN for outbound trip. At the same time the average expenditure per person for professional trip was 170.1 BGN in domestic and 735.8 BGN in abroad.



METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The applied to the statistical survey on tourist trips and tourism-related expenditures of residents' definitions are in full compliance with the requirements of the Regulation 692/2011 EC concerning data collection in the field of tourism.

Tourist trip is every private or professional trip outside the place of the resident for no more than one year. The tourist trips are divided in private and business trips in accordance with the motives of the trips.

The private trips cover holiday, excursion, visit culture and sport events, medical treatment, education, religion activities, visit relatives and friends and other trips.

The professional trips include business trip, participation in conference, congress and seminars, conclude bargains and others.

The objects of the survey are the residents of 15 years age and over. All persons of 15 years age and over, members of the selected households are interviewed.

The Statistical survey on tourist trips and tourism-related expenditures of residents is a representative and it is conducted on the basis of households' sample in the country. The sample size is 3 000 households.

The current demographic data on total population aged 15 and over by place of residence (urban/rural), sex and age groups are used for survey results' estimations at the end of 2011.