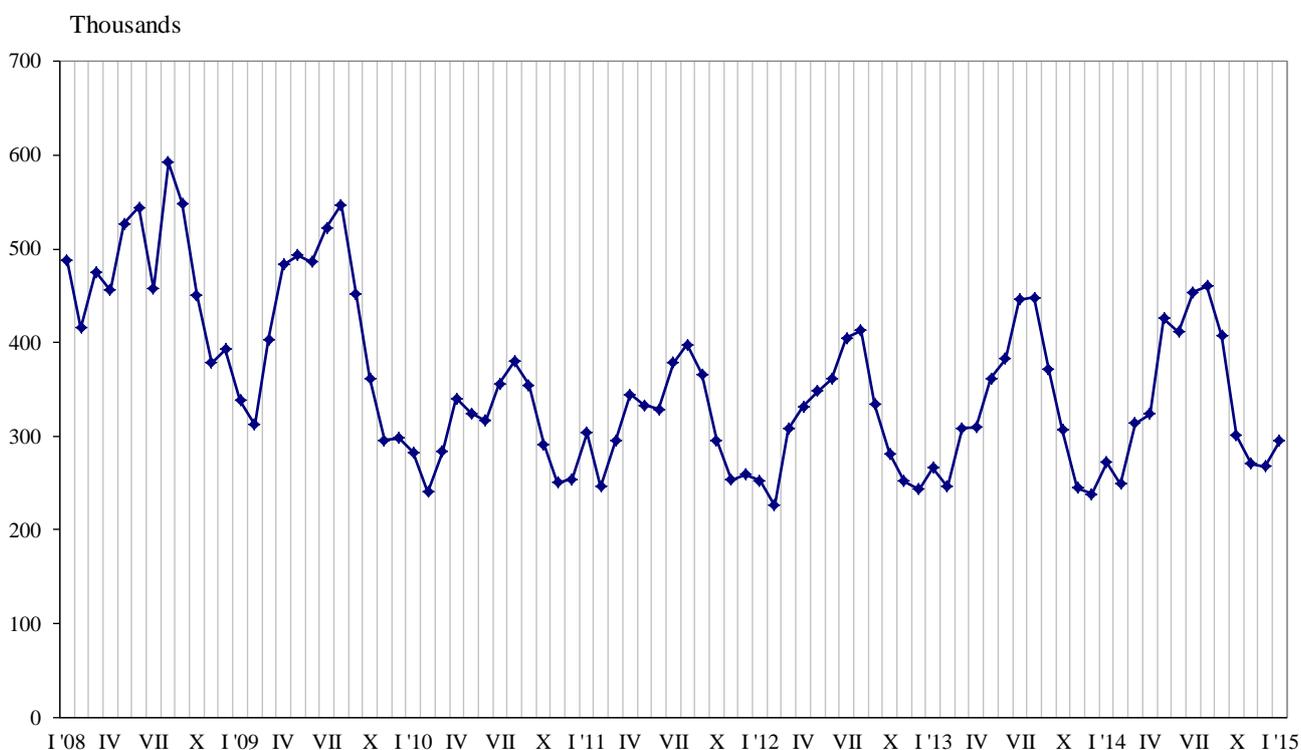




TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA IN JANUARY 2015

In January 2015, **the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 295.1 thousand (Annex, Table 1) or by 8.3% above the registered in January 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: France - by 93.6%, the United Kingdom - by 66.1%, Belgium - by 20.7%, Greece - by 19.9%, Serbia - by 12.2%, Germany - by 11.1%, and etc. At the same time a decrease was observed in the total number of the trips of Bulgarians to: Czech Republic - by 26.8%, Turkey - by 13.4%, Italy - by 12.6%, Romania - by 11.4%, Austria - by 8.0%, and etc.

Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months

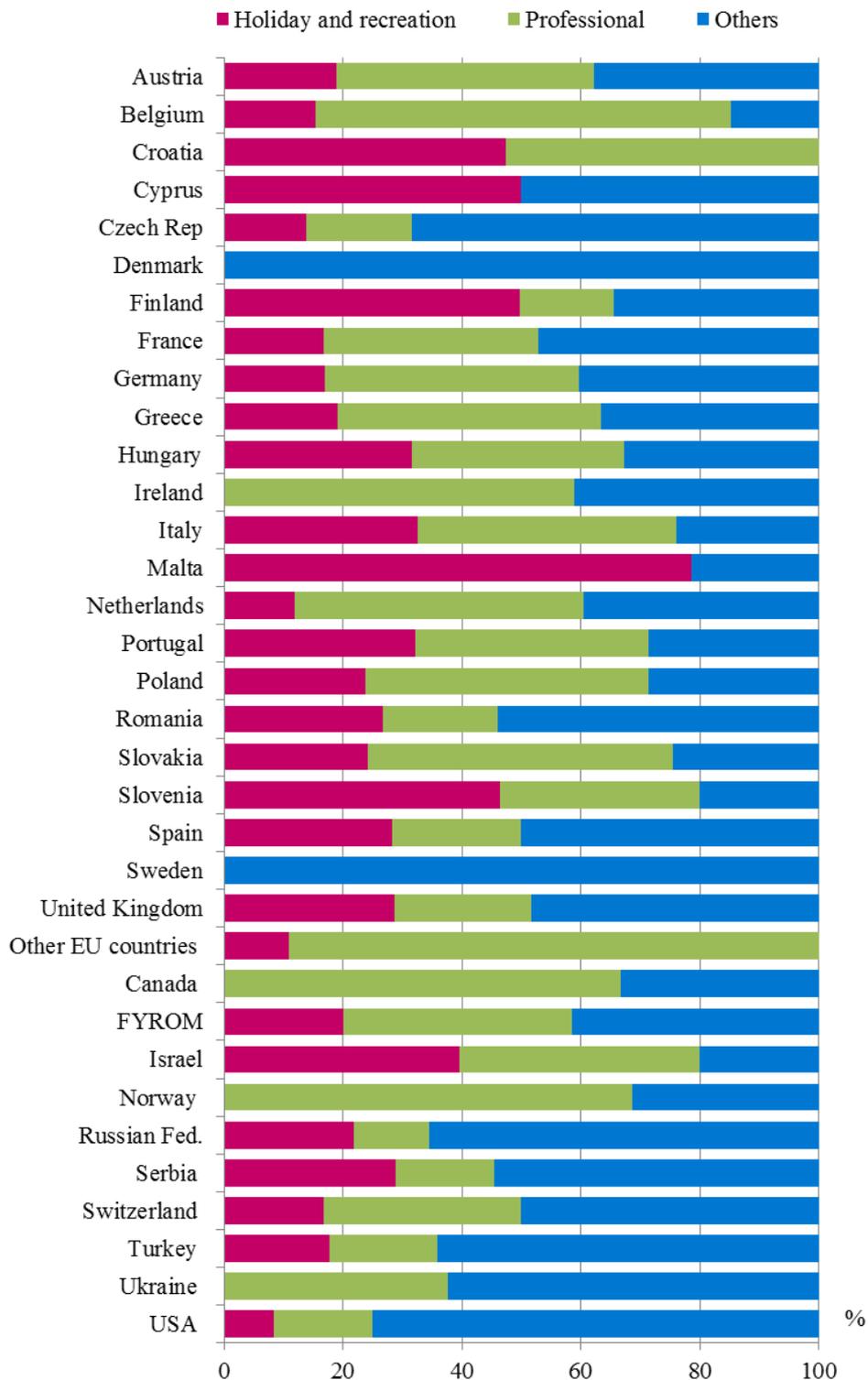


The trips with other purposes (as a guest, education and visit the cultural and sport events) in January 2015 composed the greatest share of the total number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad - 46.2%, followed by the trips with professional purpose - 32.6%, and with holiday and recreation purposes - 21.2%. In comparison with January 2014 an increase was registered in the trips with professional and with holiday and recreation purposes by 35.9% and 8.0% respectively, while these with other purposes decreased by 5.2%.

In January 2015, the trips with other purposes formed 65.5% of all trips to Russian Federation and 64.1% to Turkey. The trips to Belgium with professional purpose were 69.8%, as these to Italy with holiday and recreation purpose were 32.6% 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 January 2015

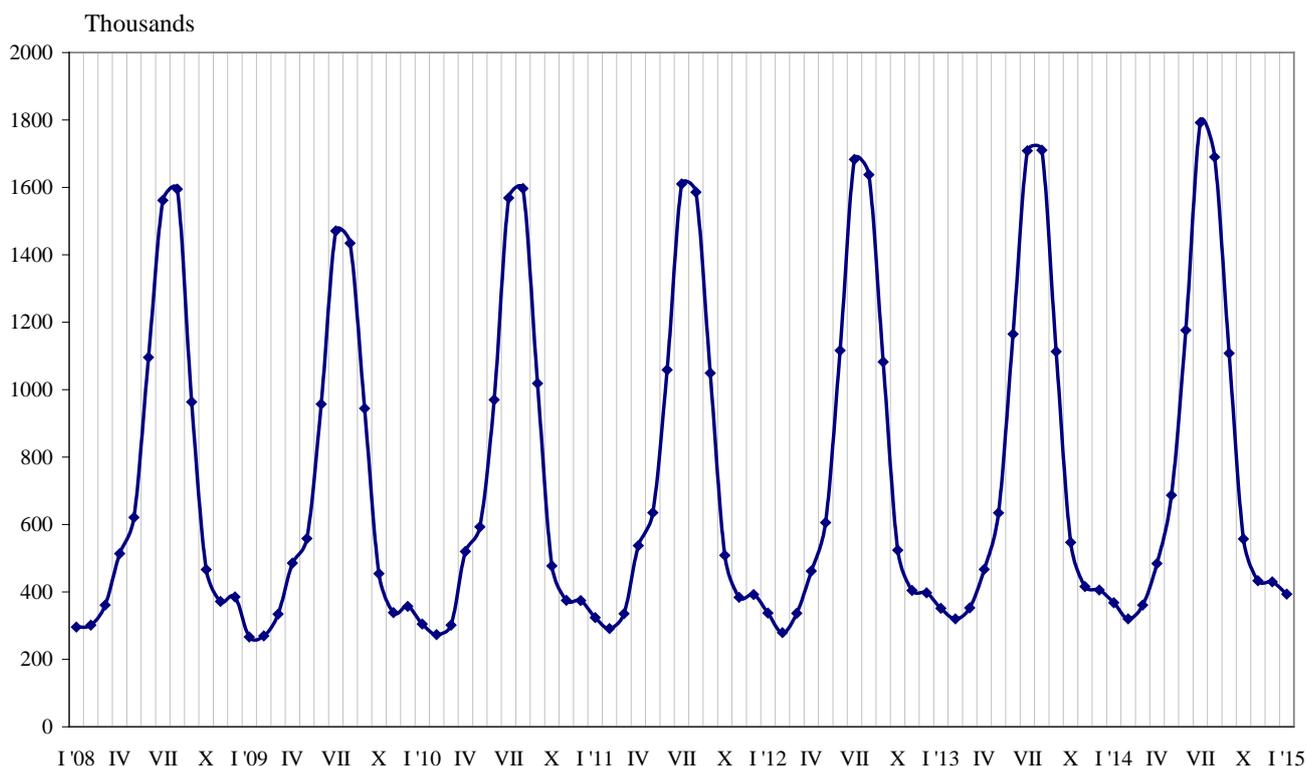




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In January 2015, the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria was 393.4 thousands (Annex, Table 2) or by 6.9% above the level of January 2014 (Figure 3). An increase was registered in the trips with professional purpose and with other purposes by 43.9% and 20.2% respectively, while the trips with holiday and recreation purpose decreased by 13.2%.

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



The share of visits of EU citizens was 43.5% of the total number of foreigners' visits to Bulgaria in January 2015 or by 4.7% more in comparison with the same month of the previous year. An increase was registered in the visits of the citizens of Belgium - by 12.5%, France - by 11.1%, Germany - by 9.0%, Italy - by 7.0%, the United Kingdom - by 6.7%, Austria - by 4.2%, and etc. At the same time decreased the visits from Croatia - by 13.9%, Czech Republic - by 8.1%, and etc.

The visits of foreigners in the group 'Other European countries'¹ increased by 7.6%, as the highest growth was observed in the visits of citizens of Turkey - by 20.8%.

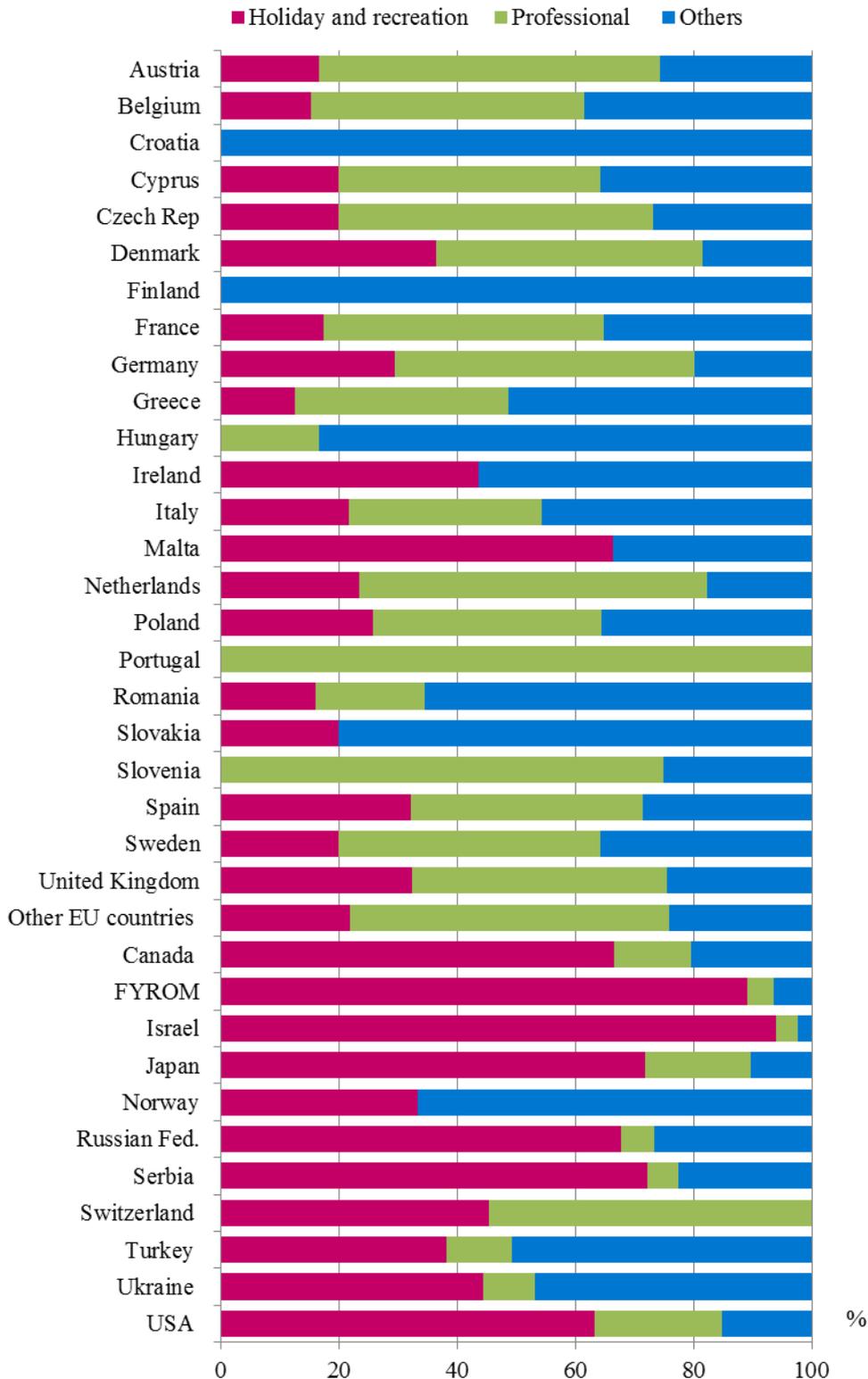
In January 2015, the predominant share of the visits with holiday and recreation purpose was - 41.2%, followed by these with others purposes (including as guest and passing transit) - 38.5% and with professional purpose - 20.3%.

The visits with holiday and recreation purposes formed 94.1% of the arrivals from Israel, 89.1% - from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 72.2% - from Serbia. The visits with professional purpose were 57.7% of the arrivals from Austria and 50.8% - from Germany, as with other purposes were 65.4% of all arrivals from Romania and 51.4% - from Greece (Figure 4).

¹ 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 January 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 January 2015**

(Number)

Country of destination	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	295080	62646	96136	136298
EU	166842	35588	64670	66584
Austria	6900	1299	2988	2613
Belgium	3193	491	2230	472
Croatia	848	402	446	-
Cyprus	146	73	-	73
Czech Republic	3626	504	644	2478
Denmark	805	-	-	805
Finland	434	216	68	150
France	5491	915	1982	2594
Germany	13684	2331	5844	5509
Greece	83001	15859	36683	30459
Hungary	3039	958	1088	993
Ireland	671	-	395	276
Italy	5127	1672	2229	1226
Malta	382	300	-	82
Netherlands	1691	201	821	669
Poland	1500	357	714	429
Portugal	2742	884	1072	786
Romania	16096	4309	3088	8699
Slovakia	780	188	400	192
Slovenia	716	332	240	144
Spain	6101	1724	1326	3051
Sweden	640	-	-	640
United Kingdom	8789	2525	2020	4244
Other EU countries	440	48	392	-
Other European countries	114580	23234	24139	67207
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	16958	3392	6522	7044
Norway	67	-	46	21
Russian Federation	2618	570	332	1716
Serbia	23034	6631	3839	12564
Switzerland	1752	292	584	876
Turkey	69624	12349	12618	44657
Ukraine	527	-	198	329
Other countries	3862	406	1640	1816
Canada	1661	-	1106	555
Israel	711	282	286	143
USA	1490	124	248	1118
Rest of the world	9796	3418	5687	691



Table 2

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

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	393430	161838	79996	151596
EU	171280	29280	61666	80334
Austria	6560	1093	3785	1682
Belgium	2634	405	1216	1013
Croatia	1280	-	-	1280
Cyprus	1245	249	551	445
Czech Republic	1467	293	782	392
Denmark	733	267	331	135
Finland	528	-	-	528
France	4522	793	2143	1586
Germany	12307	3629	6250	2428
Greece	81667	10252	29475	41940
Hungary	1564	-	261	1303
Ireland	126	55	-	71
Italy	7168	1562	2340	3266
Malta	95	63	-	32
Netherlands	226	53	133	40
Poland	4011	1035	1553	1423
Portugal	154	-	154	-
Romania	27043	4348	5000	17695
Slovakia	873	175	-	698
Slovenia	1185	-	889	296
Spain	2176	699	857	620
Sweden	950	190	420	340
United Kingdom	12625	4088	5450	3087
Other EU countries	141	31	76	34
Other European countries	186295	113677	14571	58047
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	53737	47867	2393	3477
Norway	192	64	-	128
Russian Federation	11979	8109	680	3190
Serbia	32168	23236	1702	7230
Switzerland	462	210	252	-
Turkey	77131	29476	8599	39056
Ukraine	10626	4715	945	4966
Other countries	9023	7541	848	634
Canada	444	296	57	91
Israel	5801	5456	204	141
Japan	380	273	68	39
USA	2398	1516	519	363
Rest of the world	26832	11340	2911	12581