

TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA

1. Purpose of the survey

The main purpose of the survey is to provide various information about arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria and trips of Bulgarian residents abroad.

The results from the surveys have submitted to the World Tourism Organization periodically and used for elaboration of the Balance of Payments and the National Accounts of the country.

The methodology used is harmonized with the European legislation in the field of Tourism statistics and recommendation of the World Tourist Organization.

2. Object and coverage of the survey

2.1. Statistical survey on arrivals of visitors to Bulgaria from abroad

The definitions recommended by the World Tourist Organization are applied by 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 a year and whose main purpose is not doing any activity for payment in place visited.

The purposes of visiting a country are the following:

- Excursion, holiday or entertainment (visits to cultural or historical sightseeing, sports events and other);
- Visiting friends and relatives;
- Professional purposes (business trips, participation in conferences, congresses, concluding deals, etc.);
- Other purposes.

The object of survey is all foreign citizens, visiting Bulgaria by country of residence, by months and by purposes of visiting. Travellers with transit visas are also included in the data on the number of tourists.

Due to the lack of data about permanent residence of foreign citizens it is assumed that it coincided with their citizenship. Therefore the tables for foreign visitors by countries are distributed by citizenship.

The data by month of arrival take into account the month of visitors' entry into the country.

Tourism statistics do not include:

- Persons arriving with or without contract for work or are looking for work in the country
- Persons entering the country for permanent residence;
- Inhabitants of border regions residing at one side of the border and working on the other;
- Other categories of travellers, not covering the criteria in the definition for an international visitor.

2.1. Statistical survey of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad

The object of survey is the Bulgarian residents travelling abroad.

The purposes of trips of Bulgarian residents in abroad are the following:

- Excursion, holiday or entertainment (visits to cultural or historical sightseeing, sports events and other);
- Visiting friends and relatives;
- Professional purposes (business trips, participation in conferences, congresses, concluding deals, etc.);
- Other purposes.

The data by months of travel of Bulgarian residents abroad have been based on the month of leaving the country.

3. Periodicity.

The statistical survey **of arrivals of visitors to Bulgaria from abroad and the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** is carried out monthly.

4. Data sources

Data on the trips of Bulgarian citizens travelling abroad and visits by foreign citizens in 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 the 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 of “third countries” are obtained directly from the Ministry of Interior.

Data on the purposes of the trips are developed on the basis of the NSI’s regular monthly sample survey of passing Bulgarian and foreign citizens on the border check points.

Publicity and transparency

- Access to the methodology

The data from the survey on arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria and trips of Bulgarian residents abroad and short methodological notes to the basic concepts are included in the publications of the NSI.

- Press releases

The press releases with the results from the survey are presented on the Internet site monthly.

- Publications

The results of statistical survey are published in the common issue of the NSI.

- Electronic access

The tables with key results of the survey are published on the Internet website of NSI monthly.