

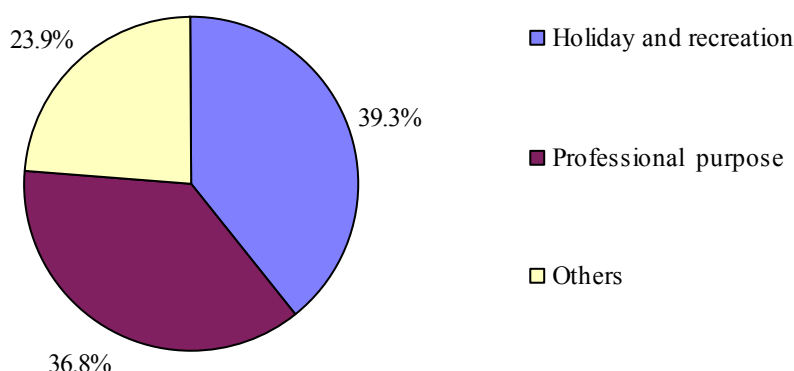


TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA IN MARCH 2011

In March 2011, the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad was 295.4 thousand or 4.1% more than the number of the trips in March 2010 (Table 1). An increase in the total number of the trips was registered namely to: Russian Federation - by 32.5%, Greece - by 18.6%, Switzerland - by 16.8%, Romania - by 14.5%, Poland - by 14.1%, Spain - by 13.3%, Slovakia - by 10.1%, Italy - by 10.1%, Lithuania - by 8.3%, Cyprus - by 8.1%, Czech Republic - by 6.0%, Israel - by 5.9%, Ukraine - by 5.8% and etc. At the same time a decrease in the number of the trips was observed to: Canada - by 60.0%, Ireland - by 51.2%, USA - by 29.4%, Denmark - by 17.0%, FYROM - by 15.6%, Portugal - by 13.2%, Estonia - by 12.5%, Slovenia - by 8.3%, and etc.

The highest share of the trips of Bulgarian citizens travelling abroad had those with holiday and recreation purpose - 39.3%, followed up by trips with professional purpose - 36.8% and others - 23.9%.

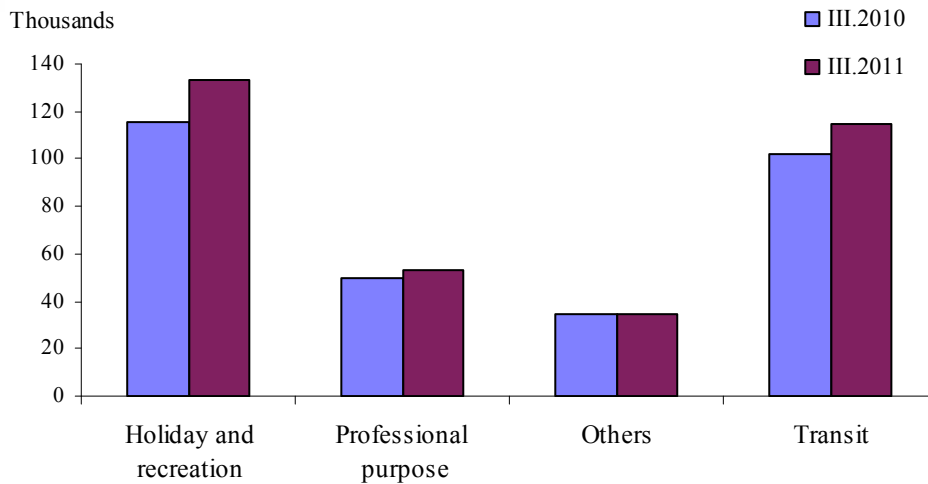
Figure 1. Structure of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit in March 2011



In March 2011, the number of the arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria was 335.7 thousand or 11.3% more than the number of the trips in the corresponding month of 2010 (Table 2). An increase in the number of visitors with holiday and recreation purpose by 15.2% was registered. The number of the visitors passing transit and visits with professional purpose increased by 12.6 and 5.8% respectively.



Figure 2. Number of the arrivals of visitors to Bulgaria from abroad by purpose of visit

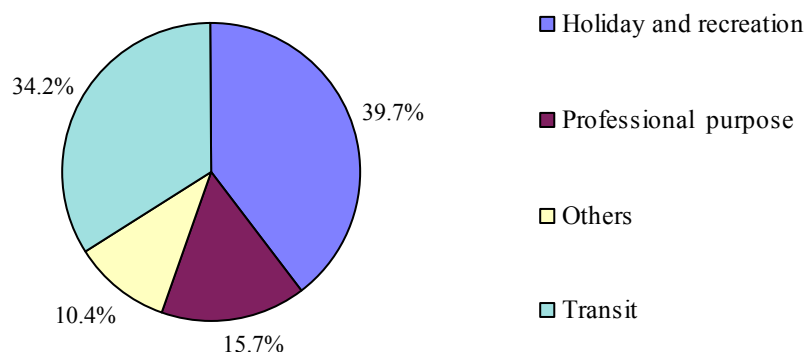


In March 2011, the arrivals of visitors from EU Member States increased by 3.8% in comparison to the same month of 2010. The highest growth in the number of visits was observed from Finland and France - 11.7 and 10.9% respectively. A decrease in the visits was registered from Lithuania - by 26.0%, Czech Republic - by 18.3%, Malta - by 17.9%, etc.

The visits of foreigners in the group “Other European countries”¹ were increased by 17.3%. The largest growth in the number of the arrivals of citizens was observed from Russian Federation - by 42.5%, Serbia - by 38.4% and Ukraine - by 26.3%.

In March 2011, arrivals by holiday and recreation purpose composed the greatest share of the total number of foreigners visited to Bulgaria - 39.7%, followed by visitors passing transit - 34.2%, professional purpose - 15.7% and others - 10.4%.

Figure 3. Structure of arrivals of visitors to Bulgaria from abroad by purpose of visit in March 2011



¹ Group of “Other European countries” include countries in Europe outside EU.



Methodological notes

Statistical data on the trips of Bulgarian citizens travelling abroad and visits by foreigners 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 sample survey of passing Bulgarian and foreign citizens on the border check points.

**TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD BY PURPOSE OF VISIT AND BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION
IN MARCH 2011**

Country of destination	Total - number	Purpose of visit - number			III.2011 as % to III.2010
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others	
Total	295414	116008	108629	70777	4.1
EU	171557	79378	76631	15548	14.1
of which:					
Austria	3727	1252	2003	472	-1.5
Belgium	1489	526	801	162	2.0
United Kingdom	4523	1983	1551	989	-0.4
Germany	11323	4709	5875	739	1.7
Greece	101765	51483	41224	9058	18.6
Spain	5537	1696	3415	426	13.3
Italy	4846	1422	3141	283	10.1
Poland	1760	760	907	93	14.1
Romania	28446	12931	13069	2446	14.5
Hungary	1022	221	508	293	-4.7
France	2160	879	1156	125	3.9
Czech Rep.	1298	492	702	104	6.0
Sweden	115	47	64	4	3.6
Other European countries	121042	35340	30768	54934	-7.3
Norway	38	8	26	4	5.6
FYROM	18172	6125	6735	5312	-15.6
Russian Fed.	892	687	117	88	32.5
Serbia	21262	10387	9947	928	2.7
Turkey	79367	17768	13089	48510	-8.2
Ukraine	692	185	463	44	5.8
Switzerland	619	180	391	48	16.8
Others	2815	1290	1230	295	-0.3



Table 2

ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA BY PURPOSE OF VISIT AND BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IN MARCH 2011

Country of origin	Total number	Purpose of visit - number				III.2011 as % to III.2010
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others	Transit	
Total	335692	133131	52752	34962	114847	11.3
EU	164526	73713	42002	6287	42524	3.8
of which:						
Austria	3583	1289	1354	123	817	-2.2
Belgium	2276	685	297	15	1279	-7.4
United Kingdom	12484	8133	1613	134	2604	8.7
Germany	8237	3931	2460	258	1588	-10.5
Greece	56679	25781	16100	1902	12896	5.7
Spain	2193	790	829	110	464	3.2
Italy	6010	2028	1425	248	2309	1.6
Poland	3592	1317	1024	493	758	-2.0
Romania	47654	19893	11023	1934	14804	9.8
Hungary	3265	1566	711	335	653	-8.8
France	3539	2021	987	54	477	10.9
Czech Rep.	2264	1058	747	174	285	-18.3
Sweden	505	285	181	31	8	1.6
Other European countries	139046	47171	7805	23426	60644	17.0
Norway	169	109	48	5	7	6.3
FYROM	34323	23764	358	5381	4820	18.4
Russian Fed.	10976	5461	2355	2531	629	42.5
Serbia	26434	14866	277	2310	8981	38.4
Turkey	57597	1668	4006	10584	41339	4.5
Ukraine	9106	1101	555	2609	4841	26.3
Switzerland	441	202	206	6	27	-13.4
Others	32120	12247	2945	5249	11679	31.3