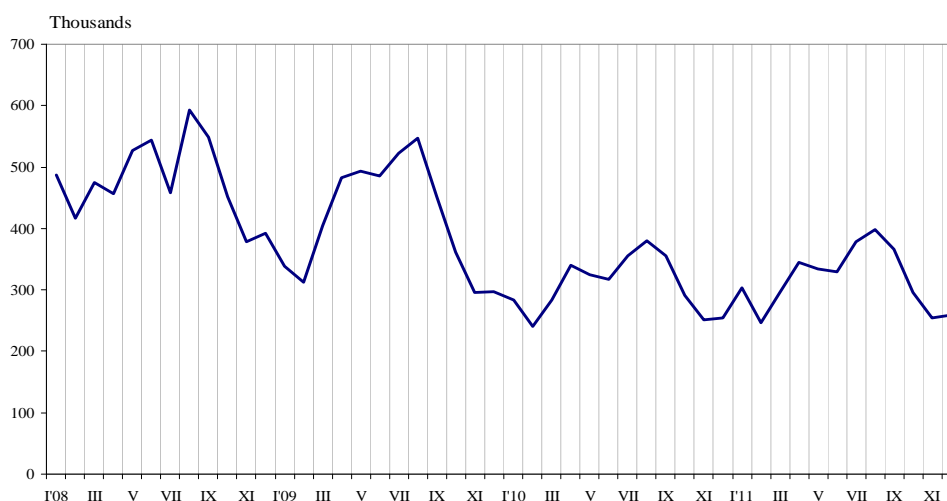




TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS IN ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA IN DECEMBER 2011

In December 2011 the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents in abroad was 258.9 thousand or by 1.9% more compared to December 2010 (Figure 1). An increase in the total number of the trips Bulgarian residents was registered to: FYROM - by 6.1%, Germany - by 5.8%, Italy - by 4.7%, Romania - by 2.4%, Greece - by 1.5%, Spain - by 1.2% and etc. At the same time greater decrease was observed to: Austria - by 13.6% and to France - by 10.6%.

Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents in abroad by months

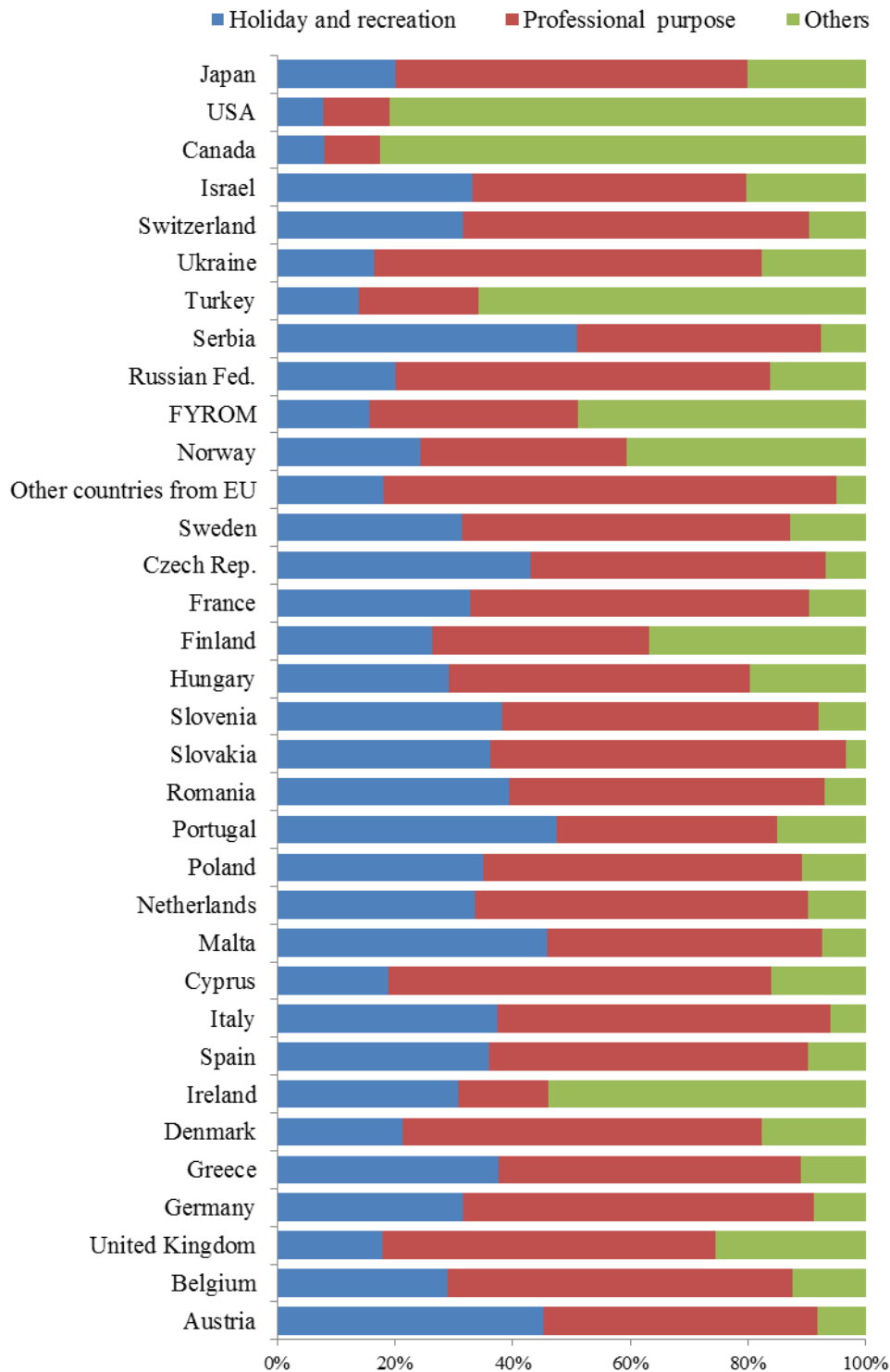


The trips with professional purpose composed the greatest share of the total number of trips of Bulgarian residents in abroad - 40.7%, followed by the trips with other purposes (as guest, education and visit the cultural and sport events) - 30.3% and holiday and recreation purpose - 29.0%. The trips with holiday and recreation purpose and with other purposes increased 15.9 and 6.4% respectively, while a drop by 8.9% in the trips with professional purpose was registered.

In December 2011 the trips with professional purpose formed 59.6% from all trips to Germany, 56.5% - to the United Kingdom, 56.8% - to Italy, and 54.3% - to Spain. Predominated share of the trips to Austria was with holiday and recreation purpose (45.2%) while the trips to Turkey and FYROM were mainly connected with other purpose of visits - respectively 65.8% and 48.9% of all trips of Bulgarian residents to these countries.



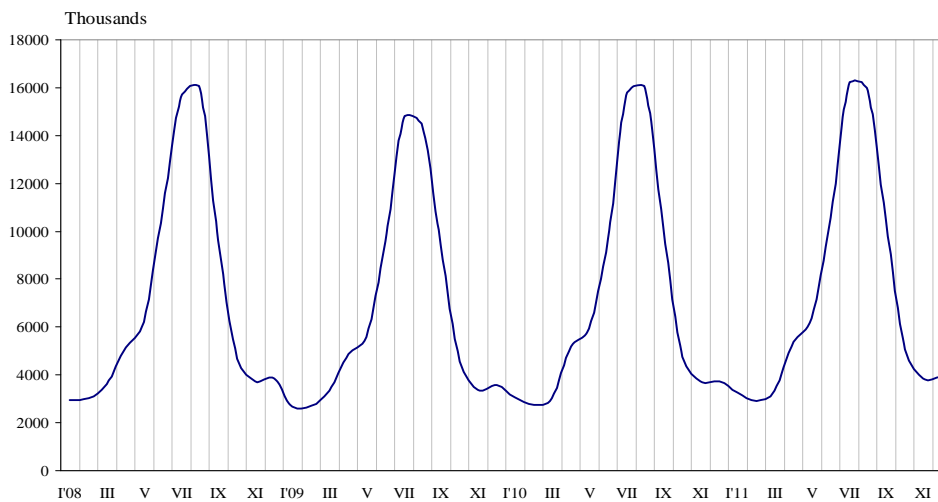
Figure 2. Structure of trips of Bulgarian residents in abroad by purpose of visit and by countries in December 2011





In December 2011, the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria was 392.3 thousand which was by 4.8% more than in the same month of 2010 (Figure 3). An increase was registered in the visits with holiday and recreation purpose - by 19.8%, while the visits with other or professional purpose decreased by 2.8 and 0.6% respectively.

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



In December 2011, the arrivals of visitors from EU Member States rose by 0.2% in comparison with the same month of the previous year as the growth of visits from Germany was 9.4% and from Spain and Italy - 8.5 and 5.0% respectively. The flow of Romanian citizens preserved while a significant decrease was observed in the visits to the citizens from Greece and Austria, 1.9 and 1.6% respectively.

The visits of foreigners in the group “Other European countries”¹ also increased by 11.4% as the highest growth was observed from Russian Federation citizens - by 37.3%.

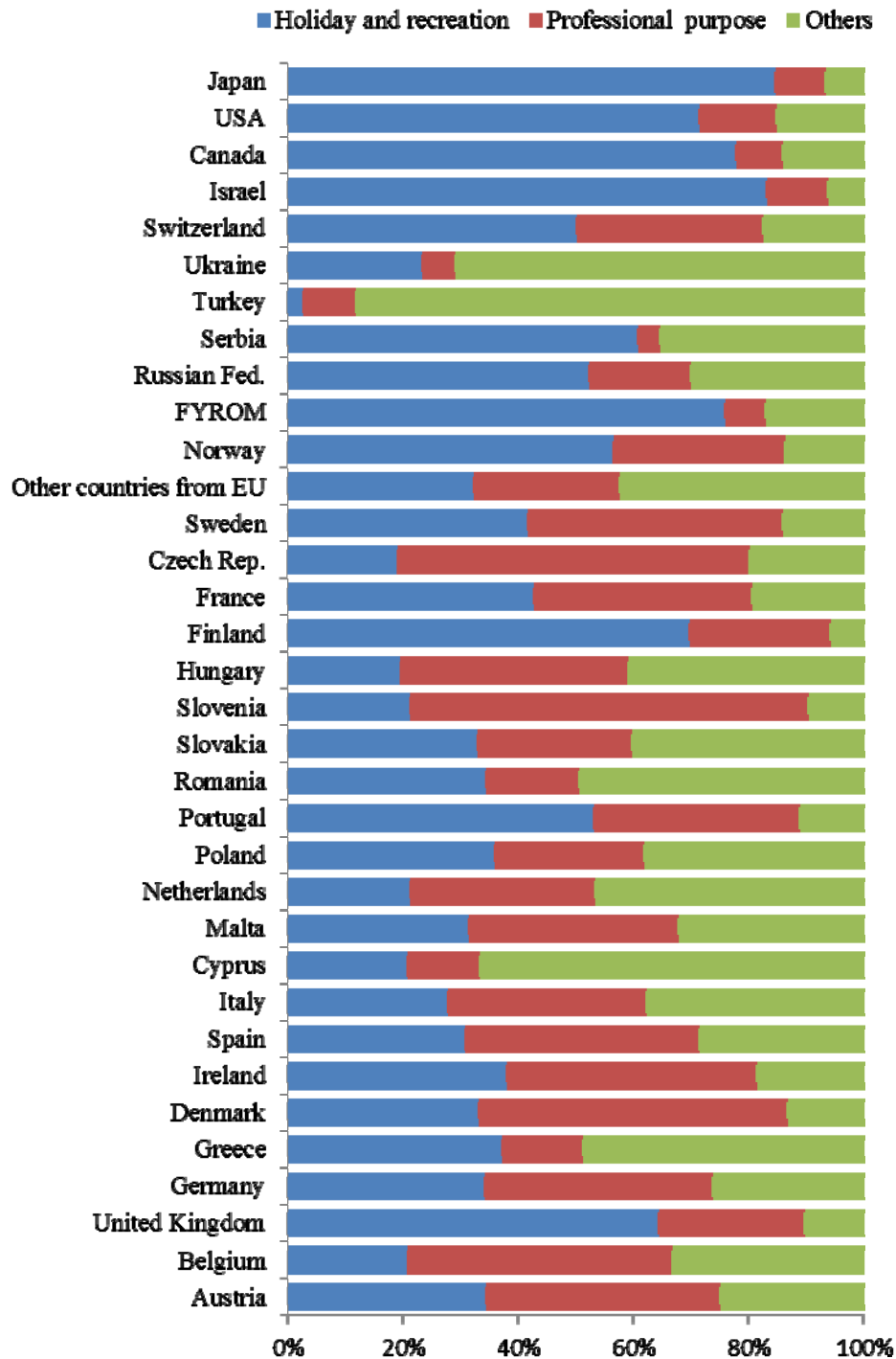
In December 2011 the visitors with other purposes (including as guest and passing transit) composed the greatest relative share of the total number of foreigners visited Bulgaria - 48.0%, followed by the arrivals with holiday and recreation purpose - 36.8% and professional purpose - 15.3%.

The visits with holiday and recreation purpose formed 64.4% of the arrivals from the United Kingdom and 52.2% from Russian Federation. The visits with professional purpose were 45.9% of all arrivals from Belgium and 40.5% of arrivals from Austria. With other purpose were 88.3% of the arrivals from Turkey.

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



Figure 4. Structure of arrivals of visitors to Bulgaria from abroad by purpose of visit and by countries in December 2011





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.

ANNEX

Table 1

Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit and by country of destination in December 2011

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit			Change in % compared to December 2010
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others	
TOTAL	258932	74974	105429	78529	1,9
EU	131870	47716	70224	13930	1,2
Austria	4867	2199	2264	404	-13,6
Belgium	2153	623	1262	268	3,1
United Kingdom	6120	1094	3458	1568	0,0
Germany	11418	3604	6810	1004	5,8
Greece	66432	24993	34143	7296	1,5
Denmark	141	30	86	25	4,4
Ireland	26	8	4	14	-25,7
Spain	6023	2164	3272	587	1,2
Italy	5346	1995	3035	316	4,7
Cyprus	920	173	599	148	-0,2
Malta	161	74	75	12	-35,3
Netherlands	1594	535	902	157	3,0
Poland	1084	380	586	118	13,0
Portugal	99	47	37	15	-2,0
Romania	20253	7970	10879	1404	2,4
Slovakia	149	54	90	5	-9,1
Slovenia	136	52	73	11	3,8
Hungary	1336	389	685	262	4,3
Finland	57	15	21	21	7,5
France	1811	593	1044	174	-10,6
Czech Rep.	1597	686	804	107	-0,4
Sweden	86	27	48	11	-6,5
Other countries from EU	61	11	47	3	-7,6
Other European countries	123864	26081	33899	63884	17,9
Norway	37	9	13	15	2,8
FYROM	19920	3129	7041	9750	6,1
Russian Fed.	790	159	503	128	-0,3
Serbia	22419	11397	9333	1689	2,2
Turkey	79210	11014	16088	52108	2,3
Ukraine	634	104	418	112	9,3
Switzerland	854	269	503	82	-4,6
Other countries	703	148	208	347	-22,1
Israel	368	122	171	75	11,9
Canada	63	5	6	52	18,9
USA	272	21	31	220	-2,9
Rest of the world	2495	1029	1098	368	-13,5



Table2

**Arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria
by purpose of visit and by country of origin in November 2011**

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit			Change in % compared to December 2010
		Holiday and recreation	Profesional	Others	
TOTAL	392323	144188	59923	188212	4,8
EU	219007	77982	45278	95747	0,2
Austria	5460	1879	2209	1372	-1,6
Belgium	1413	292	649	472	7,4
United Kingdom	8068	5192	2040	836	0,9
Germany	10976	3750	4337	2889	9,4
Greece	67908	25123	9519	33266	-1,9
Denmark	749	248	401	100	9,8
Ireland	726	276	315	135	-12,0
Spain	2882	885	1169	828	8,5
Italy	5317	1475	1830	2012	5,0
Cyprus	1393	287	175	931	-0,9
Malta	417	131	151	135	-13,8
Netherlands	2509	528	810	1171	0,9
Poland	4291	1537	1112	1642	4,4
Portugal	277	147	99	31	-1,8
Romania	93778	32249	15137	46392	-0,1
Slovakia	1998	656	537	805	6,8
Slovenia	668	141	462	65	7,7
Hungary	2456	475	976	1005	8,3
Finland	336	234	82	20	3,4
France	3136	1335	1185	616	-1,4
Czech Rep.	2362	451	1438	473	-7,4
Sweden	891	371	393	127	5,9
Other countries from EU	996	320	252	424	-2,9
Other European countries	142859	55028	11904	75927	11,4
Norway	372	210	111	51	16,3
FYROM	36283	27527	2514	6242	15,3
Russian Fed.	13071	6825	2300	3946	37,3
Serbia	26785	16239	1065	9481	19,9
Turkey	55708	1497	5047	49164	1,4
Ukraine	9669	2245	552	6872	10,9
Switzerland	971	485	315	171	1,6
Other countries	5652	4377	652	623	-15,2
Israel	2167	1797	232	138	-27,3
Canada	413	321	33	59	-29,8
USA	2562	1828	343	391	-6,5
Japan	510	431	44	35	42,5
Rest of the world	24804	6801	2089	15915	14,8