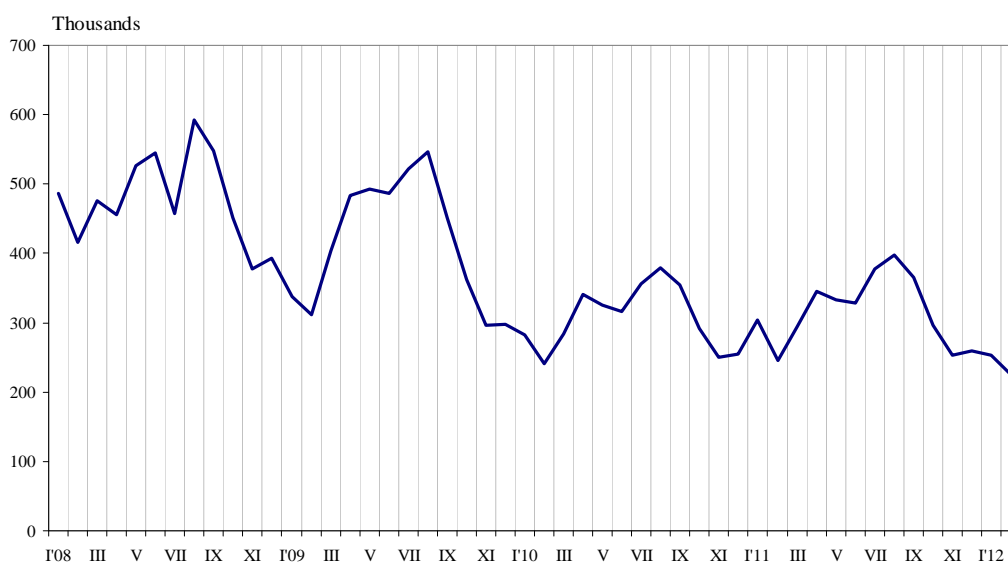




## TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND VISITS OF FOREIGNERS IN BULGARIA IN FEBRUARY 2012

In February 2012 the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad was 226.4 thousand or by 10.5% less compared to January (Figure 1). A greater decrease in the total number of the trips of Bulgarian residents was observed to: United Kingdom - by 30.9% and Spain - by 30.5%. At the same time an increase in the number of trips to Greece - by 7.9% was registered.

Figure.1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months

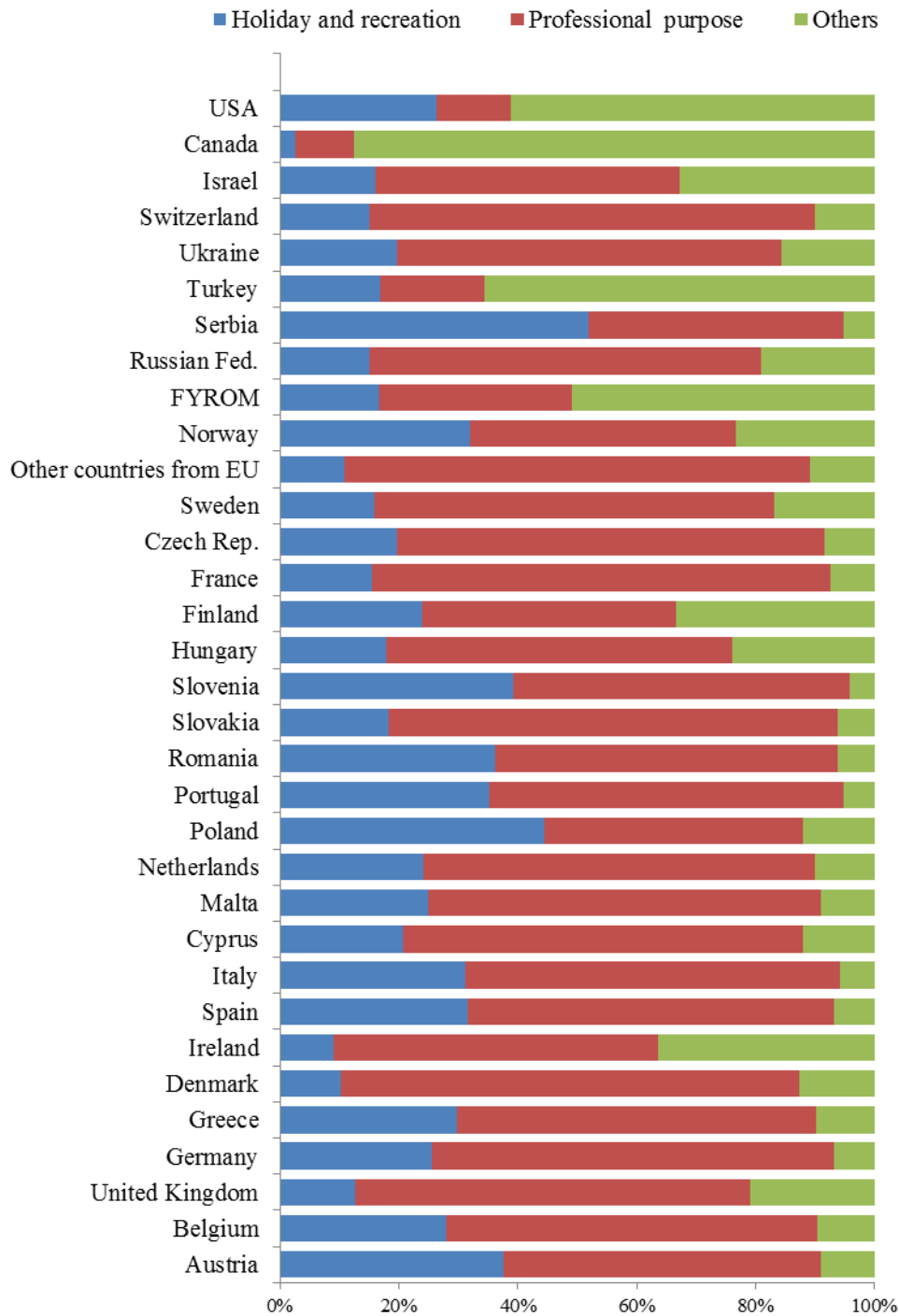


The trips with professional purpose composed the greatest share of the total number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad - 45.7%, followed by the trips with holiday and recreation purpose 27.3% and other purposes (as guest, education and visit the cultural and sport events) - 27.0%. The trips with professional purpose preserved its level from the previous month, while a decrease was registered in the trips with other purposes by 0.6% and an increase in the trips with holiday and recreation purpose by 0.6%.

In February 2012 the trips with professional purpose formed 67.7% from all trips to Germany, 66.4% - to the United Kingdom, 65.8% - to Russian Federation, 63.1% - to Italy and 61.7% - to Spain. Predominated share of the trips to Serbia was with holiday and recreation purpose (51.9%) while the trips to Turkey and FYROM connected with other purpose of visits were 65.9% and 50.8% respectively of all trips of Bulgarian residents to these countries.



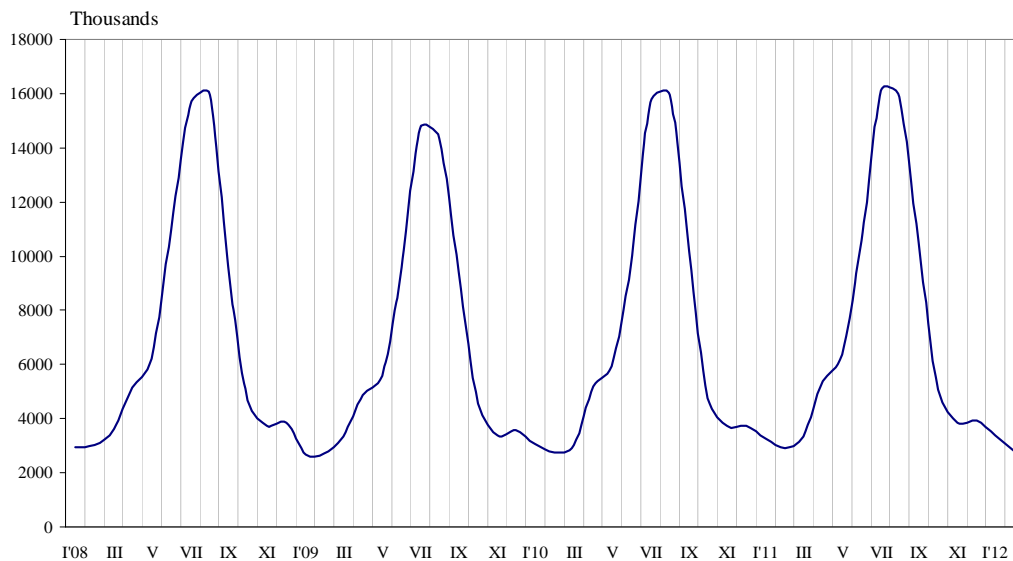
**Figure 2. Structure of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit and by countries in February 2012**





In February 2012, **the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria** was 279.5 thousand which was by 17.1% less than in January (Figure 3). An increase was registered in the visits with other purposes - by 3.3%, while the visits with holiday and recreation and with professional purpose decreased - by 1.9% and 1.4% respectively.

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



In February 2012, the arrivals of visitors from EU Member States decreased by 5.8% in comparison with the previous month as a reduction was reported in the visits of citizens from Greece - by 34.4%, Germany - by 26.0% and France - by 24.2%. A significant increase was registered in the visits of the citizens from Rumania - by 88.8%.

The visits of foreigners in the group “Other European countries”<sup>1</sup> decreased by 27.1% as the highest decrease was observed from FYROM - by 43.7%, Serbia and Ukraine - with 27.3%.

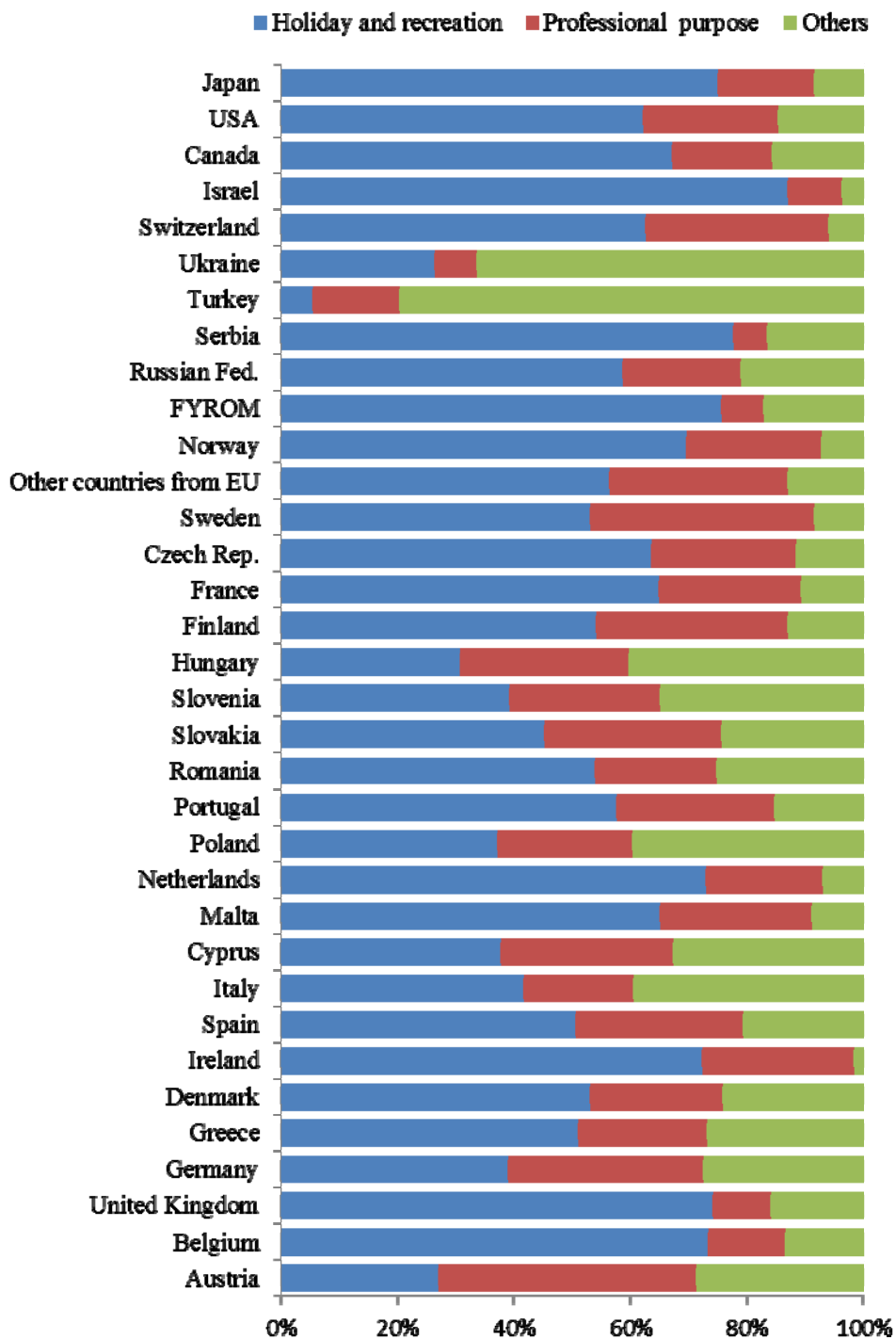
In February 2012 the visitors with holiday and recreation purpose composed the greatest relative share of the total number of foreigners visited Bulgaria - 47.1%, followed by the arrivals with other purposes (including as guest and passing transit) - 35.3% and professional purpose - 17.6%.

The visits with holiday and recreation purpose formed 75.5% of the arrivals from the FYROM and 74.2% from the United Kingdom. The visits with professional purpose were 44.3% of all arrivals from Austria and 33.6% - from Germany. With other purpose were 79.7% of the arrivals from Turkey.

<sup>1</sup> 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 February 2012





### **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 purposes of visit and  
by country of destination in February 2012**

| Country of origin               | Total -<br>number | Purpose of visit - number |                |               | Change in %<br>compared to<br>January 2012 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|--|
|                                 |                   | Holiday and<br>recreation | Professional   | Others        |  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>226 415</b>    | <b>61 762</b>             | <b>103 403</b> | <b>61 250</b> | <b>-10.5</b>                               |
| <b>EU</b>                       | <b>126 393</b>    | <b>37 701</b>             | <b>77 029</b>  | <b>11 663</b> | <b>-5.6</b>                                |
| Austria                         | 3 911             | 1 467                     | 2 094          | 350           | -27.3                                      |
| Belgium                         | 1 620             | 451                       | 1 012          | 157           | -29.2                                      |
| United Kingdom                  | 4 858             | 613                       | 3 228          | 1 017         | -30.9                                      |
| Germany                         | 9 584             | 2 451                     | 6 490          | 643           | -22.4                                      |
| Greece                          | 69 866            | 20 831                    | 42 231         | 6 804         | 7.9  |
| Denmark                         | 118               | 12                        | 91             | 15            | -34.4                                      |
| Ireland                         | 33                | 3                         | 18             | 12            | -2.9                                       |
| Spain                           | 4 732             | 1 497                     | 2 918          | 317           | -30.5                                      |
| Italy                           | 4 172             | 1 296                     | 2 631          | 245           | -28.6                                      |
| Cyprus                          | 818               | 170                       | 549            | 99            | -30.6                                      |
| Malta                           | 56                | 14                        | 37             | 5             | -48.6                                      |
| Netherlands                     | 1 394             | 336                       | 918            | 140           | -10.3                                      |
| Poland                          | 1 441             | 641                       | 626            | 174           | 32.6                                       |
| Portugal                        | 114               | 40                        | 68             | 6             | 6.5  |
| Romania                         | 19 937            | 7 201                     | 11 508         | 1 228         | -0.4                                       |
| Slovakia                        | 82                | 15                        | 62             | 5             | -35.9                                      |
| Slovenia                        | 145               | 57                        | 82             | 6             | 7.4  |
| Hungary                         | 930               | 167                       | 540            | 223           | -29.4                                      |
| Finland                         | 21                | 5                         | 9              | 7             | -53.3                                      |
| France                          | 1 452             | 223                       | 1 122          | 107           | -19.3                                      |
| Czech Rep.                      | 977               | 192                       | 702            | 83            | -38.4                                      |
| Sweden                          | 95                | 15                        | 64             | 16            | -23.4                                      |
| Other countries from EU         | 37                | 4                         | 29             | 4             | -28.8                                      |
| <b>Other European countries</b> | <b>96 067</b>     | <b>22 451</b>             | <b>24 666</b>  | <b>48 950</b> | <b>-17.7</b>                               |
| Norway                          | 47                | 15                        | 21             | 11            | -20.3                                      |
| FYROM                           | 16 641            | 2 787                     | 5 398          | 8 456         | -6.3                                       |
| Russian Fed.                    | 611               | 92                        | 402            | 117           | -21.2                                      |
| Serbia                          | 17 903            | 9 292                     | 7 665          | 946           | -16.5                                      |
| Turkey                          | 59 923            | 10 105                    | 10 515         | 39 303        | -20.3                                      |
| Ukraine                         | 398               | 78                        | 258            | 62            | -39.7                                      |
| Switzerland                     | 544               | 82                        | 407            | 55            | -30.1                                      |
| <b>Other countries</b>          | <b>306</b>        | <b>57</b>                 | <b>90</b>      | <b>159</b>    | <b>-50.2</b>                               |
| Israel                          | 137               | 22                        | 70             | 45            | -48.3                                      |
| Canada                          | 40                | 1                         | 4              | 35            | -49.4                                      |
| USA                             | 129               | 34                        | 16             | 79            | -52.2                                      |
| <b>Rest of the world</b>        | <b>3 649</b>      | <b>1 553</b>              | <b>1 618</b>   | <b>478</b>    | <b>119.8</b>                               |



Table2

**Arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria  
by purpose of visit and by country of origin in February 2012**

| Country of origin               | Total - number | Purpose of visit - number |               |               | Change in %<br>compared to<br>January 2012 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|
|                                 |                | Holiday and<br>recreation | Professional  | Others        |  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>279 510</b> | <b>131 642</b>            | <b>49297</b>  | <b>98 571</b> | <b>-17.1</b>                               |
| <b>EU</b>                       | <b>149 635</b> | <b>78 971</b>             | <b>33 446</b> | <b>37 218</b> | <b>-5.8</b>                                |
| Austria                         | 4 609          | 1 248                     | 2041          | 1 320         | -20.0                                      |
| Belgium                         | 2 390          | 1 752                     | 317           | 321           | -19.0                                      |
| United Kingdom                  | 13 515         | 10 034                    | 1332          | 2 149         | 0.2  |
| Germany                         | 8 966          | 3 494                     | 3011          | 2 461         | -26.0                                      |
| Greece                          | 50 501         | 25 785                    | 11109         | 13 607        | -34.4                                      |
| Denmark                         | 668            | 354                       | 152           | 162           | 2.1  |
| Ireland                         | 2 102          | 1 519                     | 547           | 36            | 83.1                                       |
| Spain                           | 1 767          | 895                       | 506           | 366           | 18.8                                       |
| Italy                           | 5 404          | 2 258                     | 1012          | 2 134         | -16.8                                      |
| Cyprus                          | 873            | 329                       | 259           | 285           | -17.1                                      |
| Malta                           | 497            | 323                       | 130           | 44            | -  |
| Netherlands                     | 1 391          | 1 014                     | 279           | 98            | 606.1                                      |
| Poland                          | 3 664          | 1 363                     | 843           | 1 458         | 15.5                                       |
| Portugal                        | 299            | 172                       | 81            | 46            | 86.9                                       |
| Romania                         | 41 846         | 22 532                    | 8769          | 10 545        | 88.8                                       |
| Slovakia                        | 934            | 422                       | 285           | 227           | 13.2                                       |
| Slovenia                        | 743            | 292                       | 192           | 259           | -23.8                                      |
| Hungary                         | 2 201          | 677                       | 638           | 886           | 25.8                                       |
| Finland                         | 398            | 215                       | 131           | 52            | -26.4                                      |
| France                          | 3 608          | 2 338                     | 880           | 390           | -24.2                                      |
| Czech Rep.                      | 1 852          | 1 179                     | 460           | 213           | 43.3                                       |
| Sweden                          | 525            | 279                       | 201           | 45            | -32.8                                      |
| Other countries from EU         | 882            | 497                       | 271           | 114           | 687.5                                      |
| <b>Other European countries</b> | <b>108 248</b> | <b>43 966</b>             | <b>12 534</b> | <b>51 748</b> | <b>-27.1</b>                               |
| Norway                          | 125            | 87                        | 29            | 9             | -52.5                                      |
| FYROM                           | 25 533         | 19 280                    | 1869          | 4 384         | -43.7                                      |
| Russian Fed.                    | 12 548         | 7 355                     | 2536          | 2 657         | -18.7                                      |
| Serbia                          | 18 320         | 12 547                    | 946           | 4 827         | -27.3                                      |
| Turkey                          | 43 446         | 2 371                     | 6462          | 34 613        | -14.7                                      |
| Ukraine                         | 7 896          | 2 088                     | 573           | 5 235         | -27.3                                      |
| Switzerland                     | 380            | 238                       | 119           | 23            | 2.7  |
| <b>Other countries</b>          | <b>5 533</b>   | <b>4 257</b>              | <b>816</b>    | <b>460</b>    | <b>-5.8</b>                                |
| Israel                          | 3 002          | 2 614                     | 276           | 112           | 12.3                                       |
| Canada                          | 307            | 206                       | 53            | 48            | -26.4                                      |
| USA                             | 1 802          | 1 121                     | 417           | 264           | -21.3                                      |
| Japan                           | 422            | 316                       | 70            | 36            | -14.7                                      |
| <b>Rest of the world</b>        | <b>16 094</b>  | <b>4 448</b>              | <b>2 501</b>  | <b>9 145</b>  | <b>-32.6</b>                               |