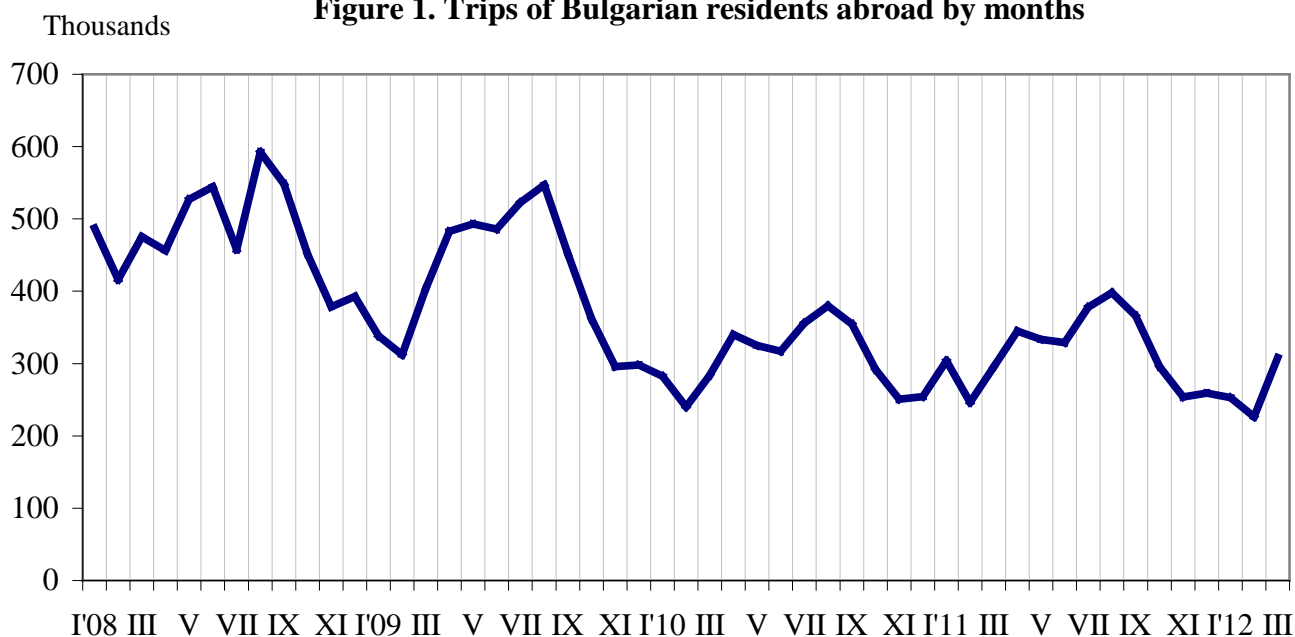




TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA IN MARCH 2012

In March 2012 the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad was 308.1 thousand or by 36.0% more than in February 2012 and by 4.3% above the registered in March 2011 (Figure 1). An increase in the total number of the trips of Bulgarian residents compared to the same month of the previous year was registered to: Serbia - by 140.8%, FYROM - by 122.9%, Austria - by 59.5%, the United Kingdom - by 45.8%, Germany - by 33.8% and etc. At the same time the greatest decrease was observed to Greece - by 55.5% and Romania - by 24.3%.

Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months

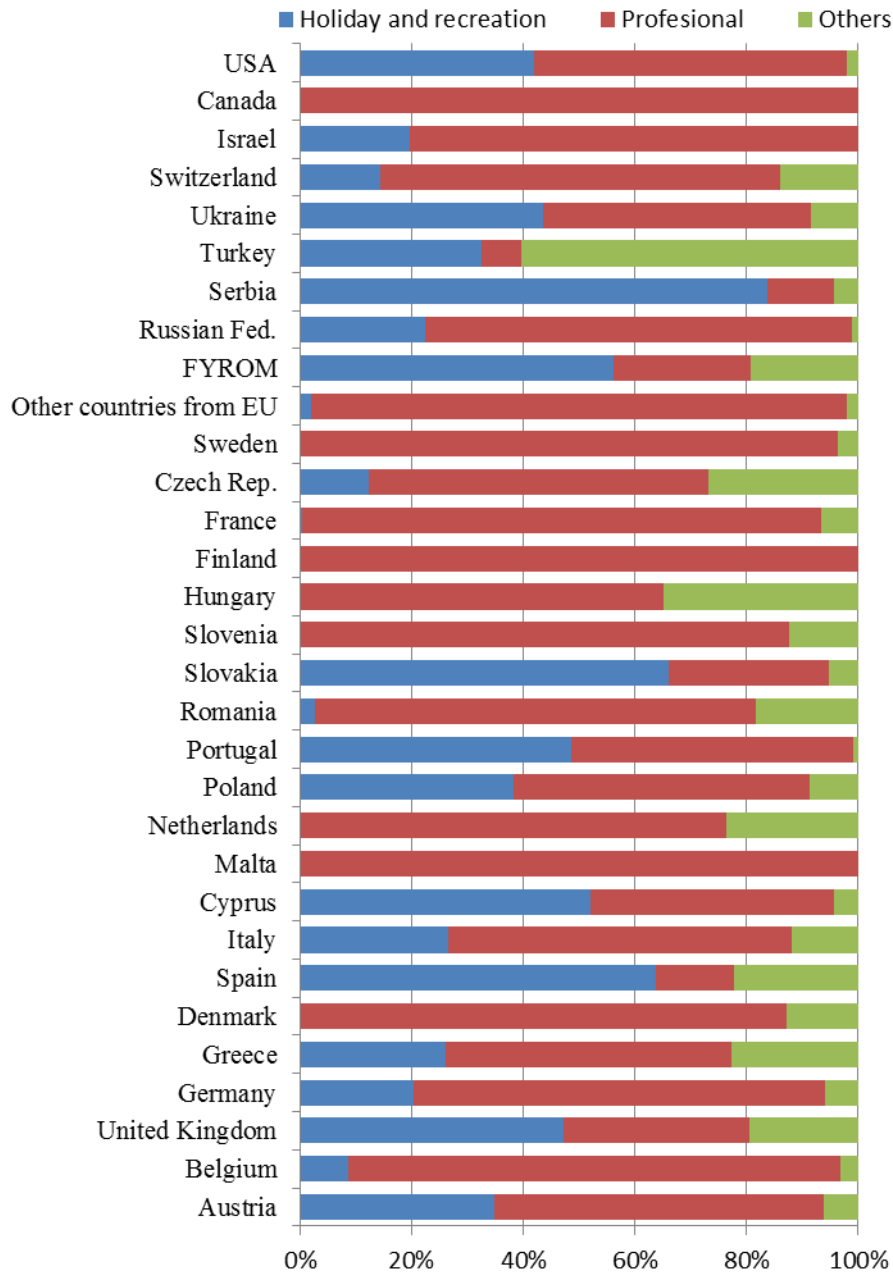


The trips with holiday and recreation purposes composed the greatest share of the total number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad - 40.4%, followed by the trips with professional purpose - 31.8% and with other purposes (as guest, education and visit the cultural and sport events) - 27.8%. The trips with holiday and recreation purpose and these with other purposes increased by 7.2 and 21.2% respectively, while a drop in the trips with professional purpose was registered - by 9.8%.

In March 2012 the trips with professional purpose formed 79.0% from all trips to Romania, 73.5% - to Germany, 61.4% - to Italy and 51.1% - to Greece. Predominated share of the trips to Spain and FYROM was with holiday and recreation purpose - 63.7% and 56.2% respectively, while the trips to the Turkey connected with other purpose of visits were 60.3% of all trips of Bulgarian residents to these countries.



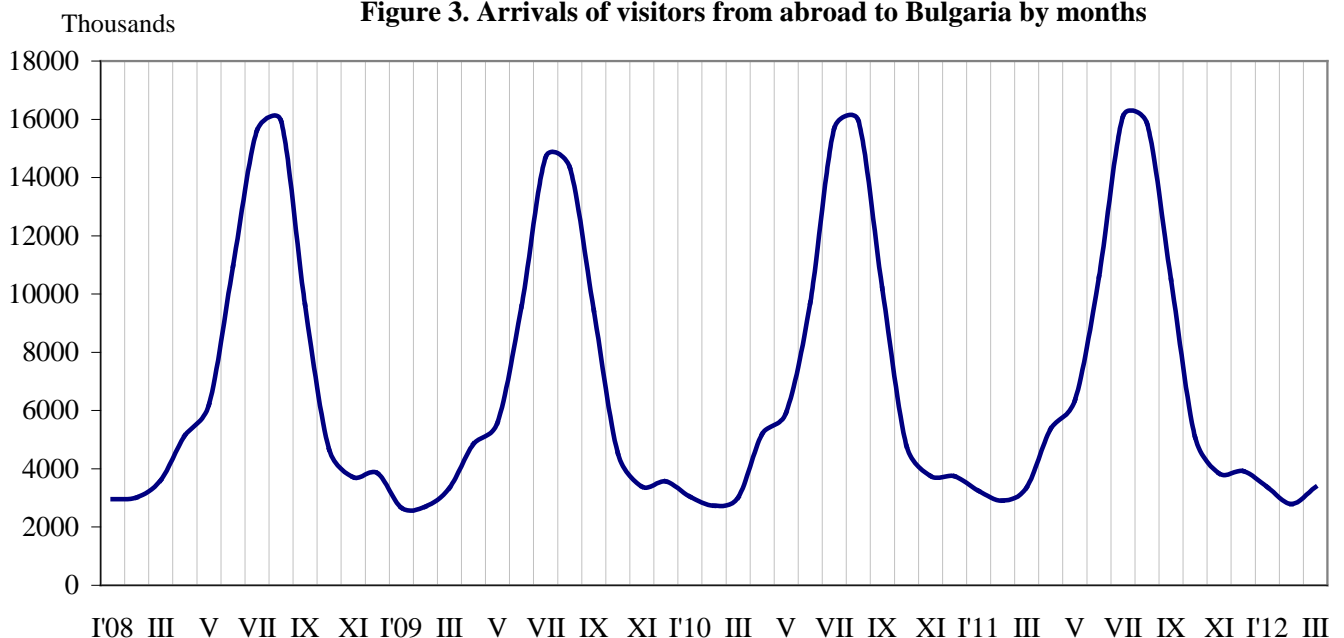
Figure 2. Structure of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit and by countries in March 2012





In March 2012, **the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria** was 336.9 thousand which was by 20.5% more compared to February 2012 as remains on its level of March 2011 (Figure 3). An increase was registered in the visits with holiday and recreation purpose, and professional purpose - by 1.7% and 8.4% respectively, while the visits with other purposes decreased by 3.7%.

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



In March 2012 the arrivals of visitors from EU Member States decreased by 3.0% in comparison with the same month of the previous year. However a growth was registered in the visits from Austria – by 27.0% Germany - 14.7% and Romania - by 7.2%. A significant decrease was observed in the visits of the citizens from Greece – by 14.3% and the United Kingdom - by 11.6%.

The visits of foreigners in the group “Other European countries”¹ increased by 4.0% as the highest growth was observed from Russian Federation citizens - by 15.3%.

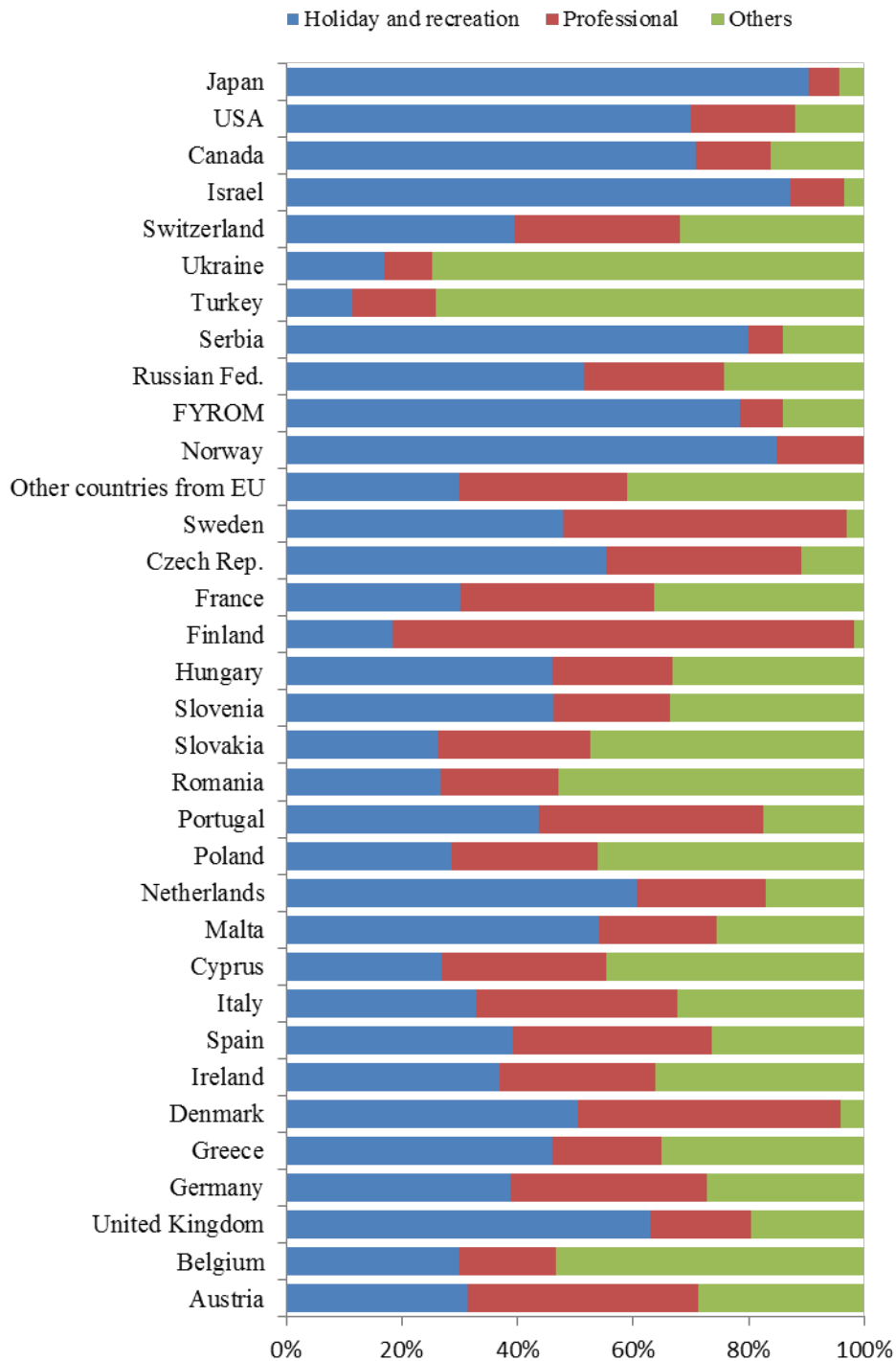
In March 2012 the visitors with other purposes (including as guest and passing transit) composed the greatest relative share of the total number of foreigners visited Bulgaria - 42.8%, followed by the arrivals with holiday and recreation purpose - 40.2% and professional purpose - 17.0%.

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



The visits with holiday and recreation purpose formed 78.5% of the arrivals from FYROM, from the United Kingdom - 63.5% and from Serbia - 62.4%. The visits with professional purpose were 39.0% of all arrivals from Austria, while with other purpose were 74.2% of the arrivals from Turkey.

Figure 4. Structure of arrivals of visitors to Bulgaria from abroad by purpose of visit and by countries in March 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 monthly 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 March 2012

Country of destination	Total - number	Purpose of visit - number			Change in % compared to March 2011
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others	
TOTAL	308072	124353	97952	85767	4,3
EU	120937	28459	71861	20617	-29,5
Austria	5943	2077	3507	359	59,5
Belgium	3189	280	2806	103	114,2
United Kingdom	6594	3115	2188	1291	45,8
Germany	15154	3104	11139	911	33,8
Greece	45313	11846	23159	10308	-55,5
Denmark	156	-	136	20	6,8
Ireland	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	6816	4340	963	1513	23,1
Italy	6267	1669	3851	747	29,3
Cyprus	1210	631	526	53	0,4
Malta	29	-	29	-	-50,0
Netherlands	1545	-	1180	365	0,5
Poland	1069	408	569	92	-39,3
Portugal	109	51	55	3	-38,8
Romania	21524	583	16994	3947	-24,3
Slovakia	97	64	28	5	-1,0
Slovenia	106	-	93	13	-49,5
Hungary	212	-	138	74	-79,3
Finland	19	-	19	-	-24,0
France	3204	12	2983	209	48,3
Czech Rep.	2229	277	1352	600	71,7
Sweden	54	-	52	2	-53,0
Other countries from EU	98	2	94	2	44,1
Other European countries	185027	95525	25443	64059	52,9
Norway	-	-	-	-	-
FYROM	40513	22770	9938	7805	122,9
Russian Fed.	2105	474	1605	26	136,0
Serbia	51206	42873	6164	2169	140,8
Turkey	89324	28966	6528	53830	12,5
Ukraine	587	256	282	49	-15,2
Switzerland	1292	186	926	180	108,7
Other countries	448	161	280	7	60,0
Israel	91	18	73	-	-36,8
Canada	15	-	15	-	-6,3
USA	342	143	192	7	185,0
Rest of the world	1660	208	368	1084	-34,5



Table2

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

Country of origin	Total - number	Purpose of visit - number			Change in % compared to March 2011
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others	
TOTAL	336904	135451	57197	144256	0,4
EU	159604	61277	36692	61635	-3,0
Austria	4549	1432	1806	1311	27,0
Belgium	2255	673	377	1205	-0,9
United Kingdom	11041	6948	1933	2160	-11,6
Germany	9450	3667	3217	2566	14,7
Greece	48571	22371	9157	17043	-14,3
Denmark	789	398	358	33	1,9
Ireland	2867	1058	773	1036	-10,9
Spain	2537	995	873	669	15,7
Italy	4872	1605	1693	1574	-18,9
Cyprus	755	203	215	337	-30,0
Malta	613	331	125	157	-20,9
Netherlands	1685	1021	378	286	-2,1
Poland	4100	1173	1037	1890	14,1
Portugal	224	98	87	39	-14,5
Romania	51076	13694	10338	27044	7,2
Slovakia	1639	432	432	775	-30,4
Slovenia	782	362	158	262	33,4
Hungary	3486	1605	724	1157	6,8
Finland	395	73	315	7	-14,1
France	3839	1159	1283	1397	8,5
Czech Rep.	2594	1437	875	282	14,6
Sweden	535	257	262	16	5,9
Other countries from EU	950	285	276	389	-6,6
Other European countries	144580	60784	16272	67524	4,0
Norway	139	118	21	-	-17,8
FYROM	35759	28060	2658	5041	4,2
Russian Fed.	12659	6536	3047	3076	15,3
Serbia	28180	17573	1298	9309	6,6
Turkey	57789	6655	8284	42850	0,3
Ukraine	9428	1595	785	7048	3,5
Switzerland	626	247	179	200	42,0
Other countries	8189	6588	990	611	-2,9
Israel	3210	2802	300	108	-16,1
Canada	468	332	60	76	-6,6
USA	3051	2135	553	363	-15,3
Japan	1460	1319	77	64	189,1
Rest of the world	24531	6802	3243	14486	3,6