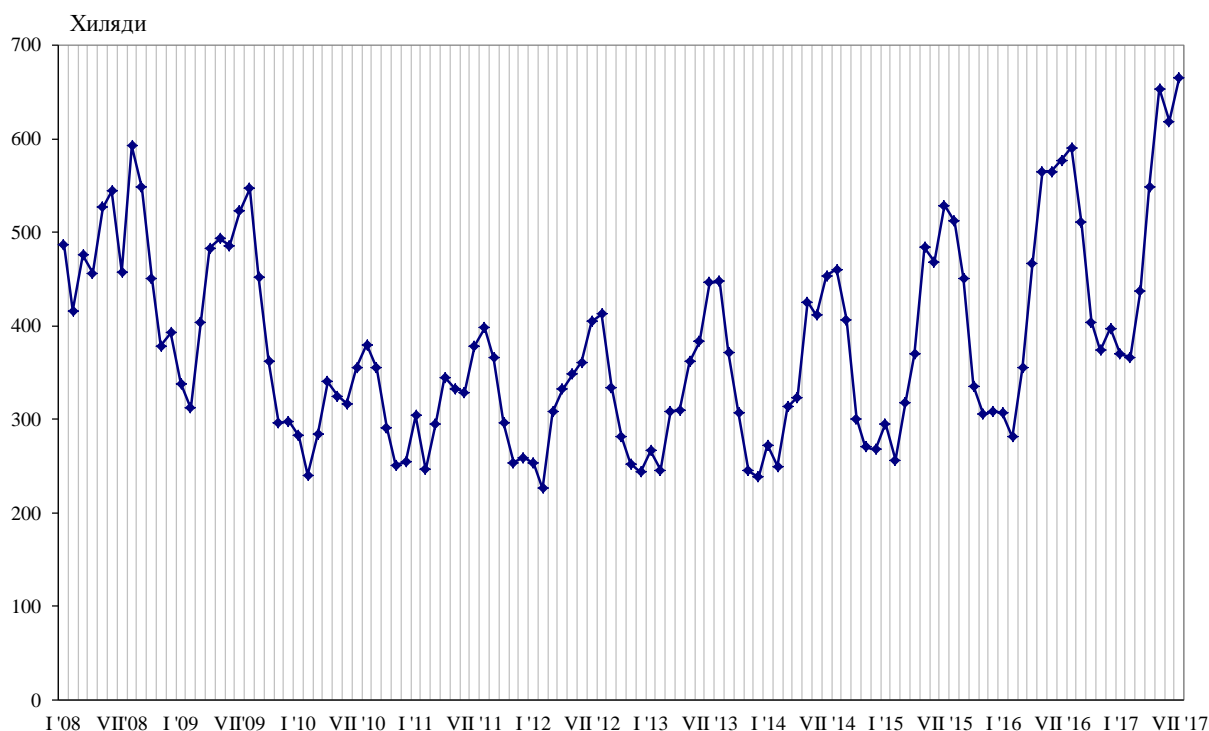




TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA IN JULY 2017

In July 2017, **the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 665.7 thousand (Annex, Table 1) or by 15.3% above the registered in July 2016 (Figure 1). In comparison with the same month of the previous year an increase was observed in the total number of the trips of Bulgarians to: Italy - by 53.0%, Austria - by 34.9%, Spain - by 32.4%, France - by 29.2%, the United Kingdom - by 19.5%, Romania - by 17.0%, Greece - by 11.9%, Germany - by 11.5%, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - by 10.8%, Serbia - by 4.9%, Turkey - by 3.1%, and etc. At the same time decreased the number of the trips of Bulgarians to: Russian Federation - by 13.4%, Czech Republic - by 9.6%, and etc.

Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months

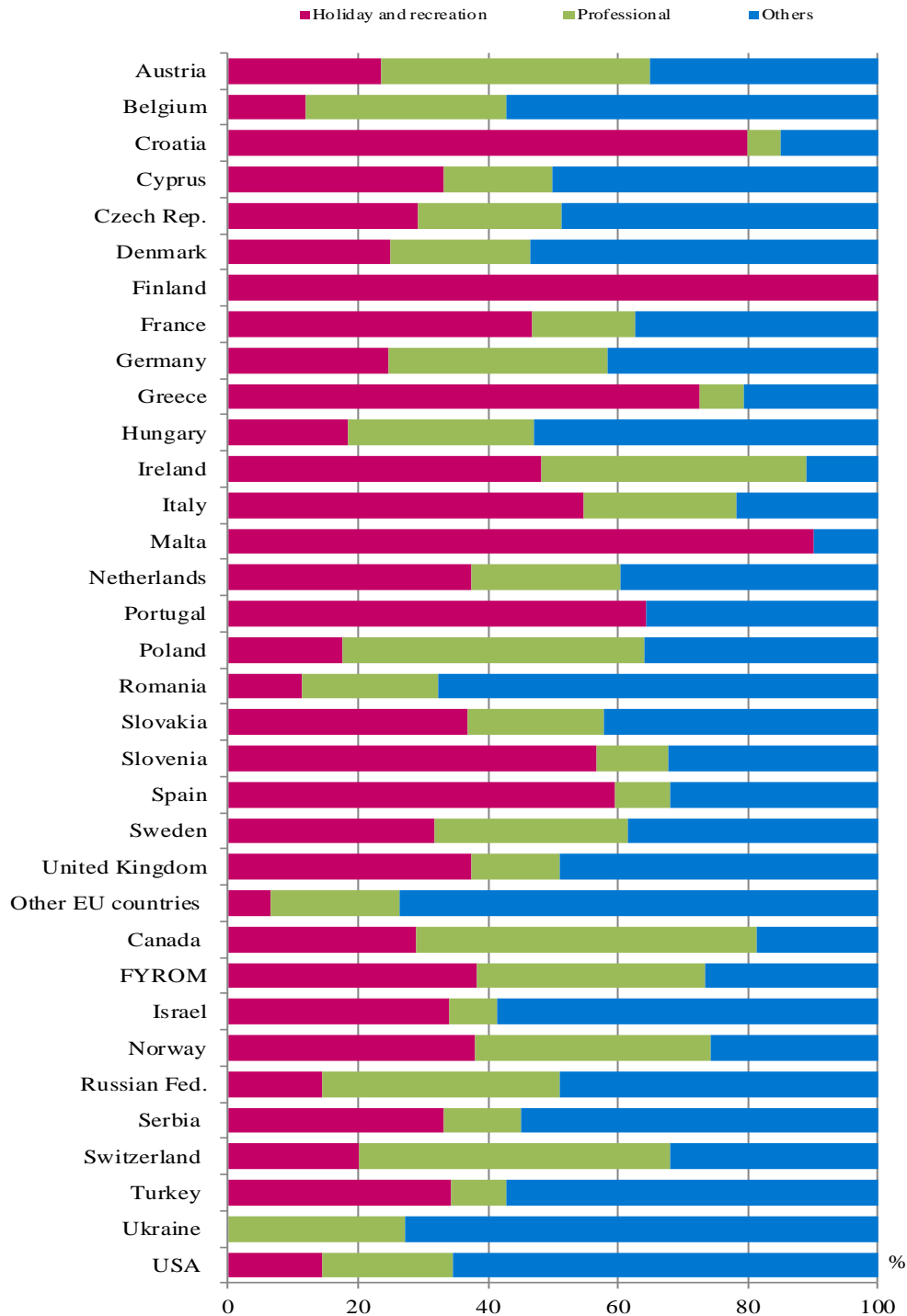


The trips with other purposes (as a guest, education and visit the cultural and sport events) in July 2017 composed the greatest share of the total number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad - 42.0%, followed by the trips with holiday and recreation purpose - 40.7%, and with professional purpose - 17.3%. In comparison with July 2016, an increase was registered in the trips with all observed purposes: with holiday and recreation purpose - by 26.9%, with professional purpose - by 21.4%, and with other purposes - by 4.0%.

In July 2017, the trips with other purposes formed 67.7% of all trips to Romania, 57.3% - to Turkey and 54.9% - to Serbia. The trips with holiday and recreation purpose to Greece, Spain and Italy were 72.6%, 59.6% and 54.8% respectively of all trips of Bulgarian residents to these countries (Figure 2).



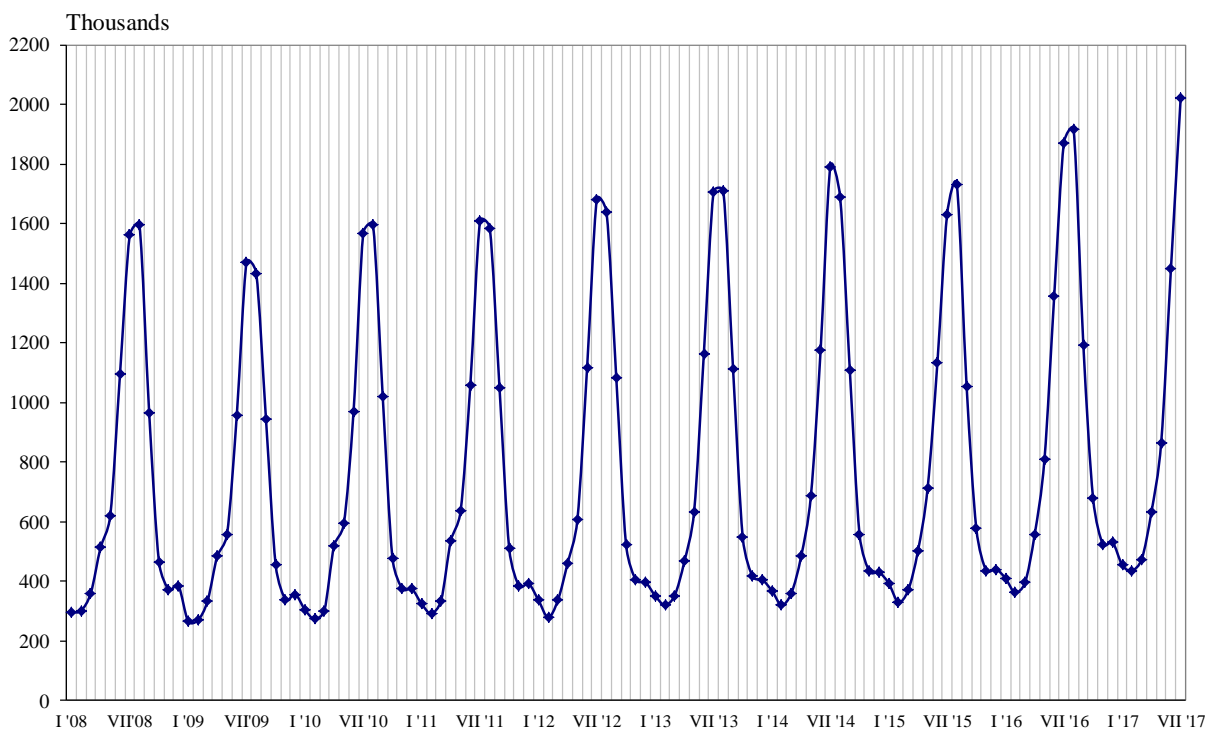
Figure 2. Structure of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit and country of destination in July 2017





In July 2017, the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria was 2 022.1 thousand (Annex, Table 2) or by 8.0% more in comparison with July 2016 (Figure 3). An increase was registered in the trips by all observed purposes: with professional purpose - by 12.5%, with holiday and recreation purpose - by 9.6% and with other purposes - by 4.6%.

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



The share of visits of EU citizens was 62.3% of the total number of foreigners' visits to Bulgaria in July 2017 or by 9.8% more in comparison with the same month of the previous year. An increase was registered in the visits of citizens from Spain - by 31.9%, the United Kingdom - by 31.3%, Italy - by 19.1%, Greece - by 19.1%, Belgium - by 15.8%, Poland - by 12.4%, the Netherlands - by 9.7%, Romania - by 9.4%, Germany - by 8.0%, and etc. At the same time decreased the visits from Slovakia - by 7.5%, Austria - by 6.9%, and etc.

The visits of foreigners in the group 'Other European countries'¹ increased by 3.0%, as the highest growth was observed in the visits of citizens of Ukraine - by 19.7%.

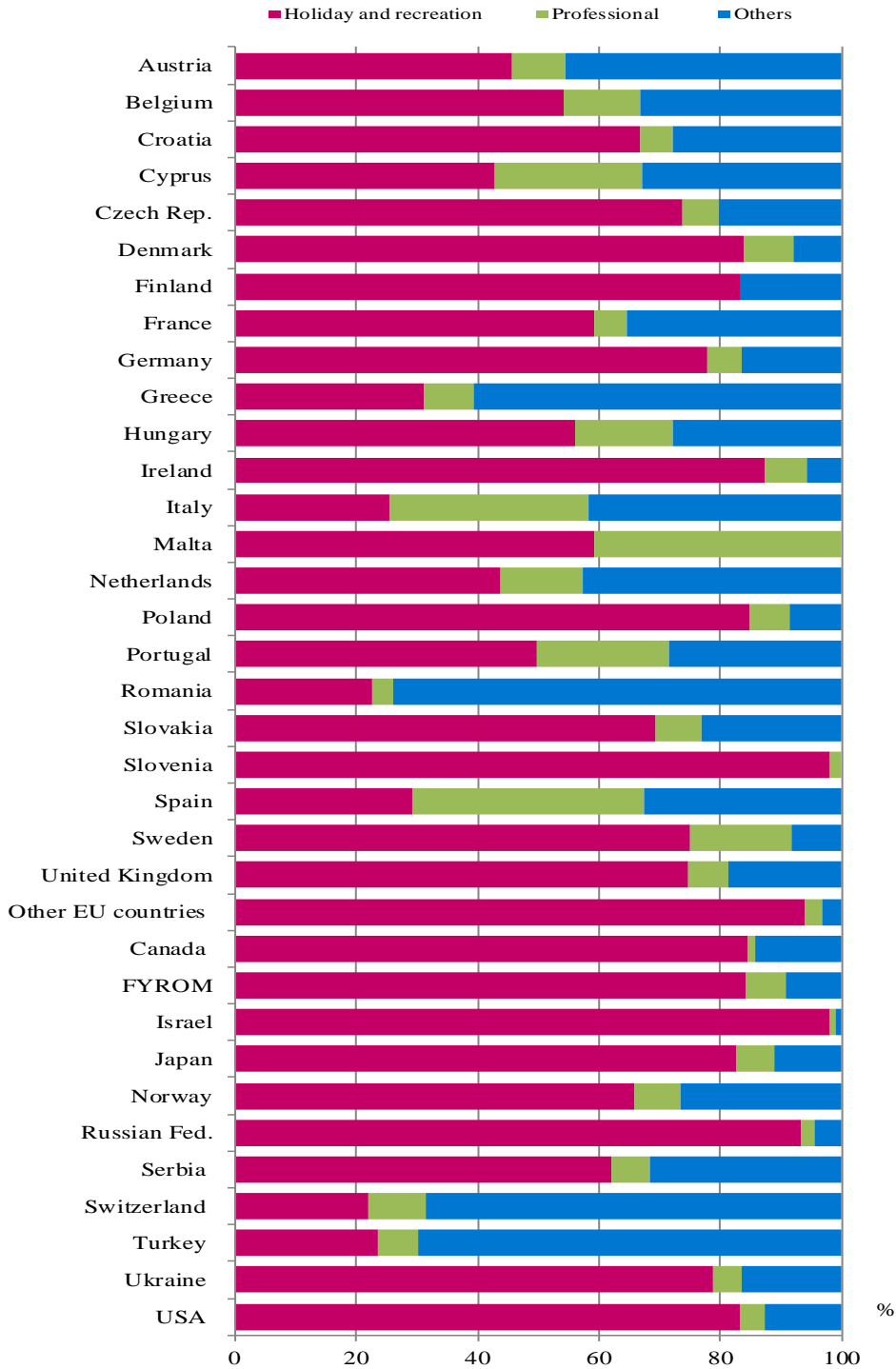
In July 2017, the predominant share of the visits with holiday and recreation purpose was 59.1%, followed by trips with other purposes (including as guest and passing transit) - 34.2%, and with professional purpose - 6.7%.

The visits with holiday and recreation purpose formed 97.9% of the arrivals from Israel and 93.3% - from Russian Federation, as with other purposes were 73.8% of all arrivals from Romania and 69.7% - from Turkey (Figure 4).

¹ Group 'Other European countries' includes countries in Europe outside EU.



Figure 4. Structure of the arrivals of visitors to Bulgaria from abroad by purpose of visit and country of origin in July 2017





Methodological notes

The definitions recommended by the World Tourist Organization and the Methodological manual for tourism by Eurostat are applied by the 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 at least 24 hours but no more than one year and whose main purpose is not doing any activity for payment.

The purposes of visiting a country are the following:

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

Statistical data on the trips of Bulgarian citizens travelling abroad and visits by foreigners to 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 through 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 from 'third countries' are obtained directly from the Ministry of Interior.

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



Annex

Table 1

**Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purposes of visit
and country of destination in July 2017**

Country of destination	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
				(Number)
Total	665713	271111	115137	279465
EU	424521	188190	79534	156797
Austria	20839	4894	8613	7332
Belgium	5120	610	1585	2925
Croatia	4967	3974	250	743
Cyprus	1108	369	185	554
Czech Republic	11170	3243	2483	5444
Denmark	3700	925	794	1981
Finland	442	442	-	-
France	11538	5408	1803	4327
Germany	67825	16821	22789	28215
Greece	131433	95351	8850	27232
Hungary	9487	1755	2711	5021
Ireland	2037	980	834	223
Italy	28359	15546	6627	6186
Malta	2538	2284	-	254
Netherlands	5924	2221	1357	2346
Poland	3160	561	1459	1140
Portugal	4218	2716	-	1502
Romania	60115	6787	12605	40723
Slovakia	4786	1763	1008	2015
Slovenia	5976	3390	658	1928
Spain	17672	10528	1504	5640
Sweden	1639	520	487	632
United Kingdom	18773	6990	2596	9187
Other EU countries	1695	112	336	1247
Other European countries	226792	75831	32252	118709
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	30615	11725	10748	8142
Norway	1324	502	479	343
Russian Federation	6896	1008	2514	3374
Serbia	36001	12000	4235	19766
Switzerland	2146	429	1030	687
Turkey	146522	50167	12349	84006
Ukraine	3288	-	897	2391
Other countries	3211	814	643	1754
Canada	542	156	284	102
Israel	1390	472	103	815
USA	1279	186	256	837
Rest of the world	11189	6276	2708	2205



Table 2

**Arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria
by purpose of visit and country of origin in July 2017**

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	2022127	1195464	136111	690552
EU	1259202	691003	98738	469461
Austria	34207	15578	3122	15507
Belgium	35349	19077	4489	11783
Croatia	4175	2783	223	1169
Cyprus	4241	1814	1027	1400
Czech Republic	55541	40925	3410	11206
Denmark	30478	25560	2471	2447
Finland	9386	7822	-	1564
France	57138	33782	3178	20178
Germany	228697	177814	12766	38117
Greece	139661	43502	11329	84830
Hungary	29482	16510	4717	8255
Ireland	8495	7425	570	500
Italy	26954	6839	8851	11264
Malta	233	138	95	-
Netherlands	62595	27310	8625	26660
Poland	114905	97228	7857	9820
Portugal	4732	2352	1028	1352
Romania	270178	61261	9425	199492
Slovakia	27565	19084	2120	6361
Slovenia	5342	5230	112	-
Spain	15505	4534	5933	5038
Sweden	17800	13350	2967	1483
United Kingdom	55553	41368	3828	10357
Other EU countries	20990	19717	595	678
Other European countries	564490	350187	29015	185288
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	53099	44713	3453	4933
Norway	17874	11778	1330	4766
Russian Federation	156436	145959	3079	7398
Serbia	59516	36902	3748	18866
Switzerland	7622	1668	742	5212
Turkey	186747	43813	12649	130285
Ukraine	83196	65354	4014	13828
Other countries	55437	51342	1110	2985
Canada	3633	3063	53	517
Israel	35498	34751	319	428
Japan	1349	1114	85	150
USA	14957	12414	653	1890
Rest of the world	142998	102932	7248	32818