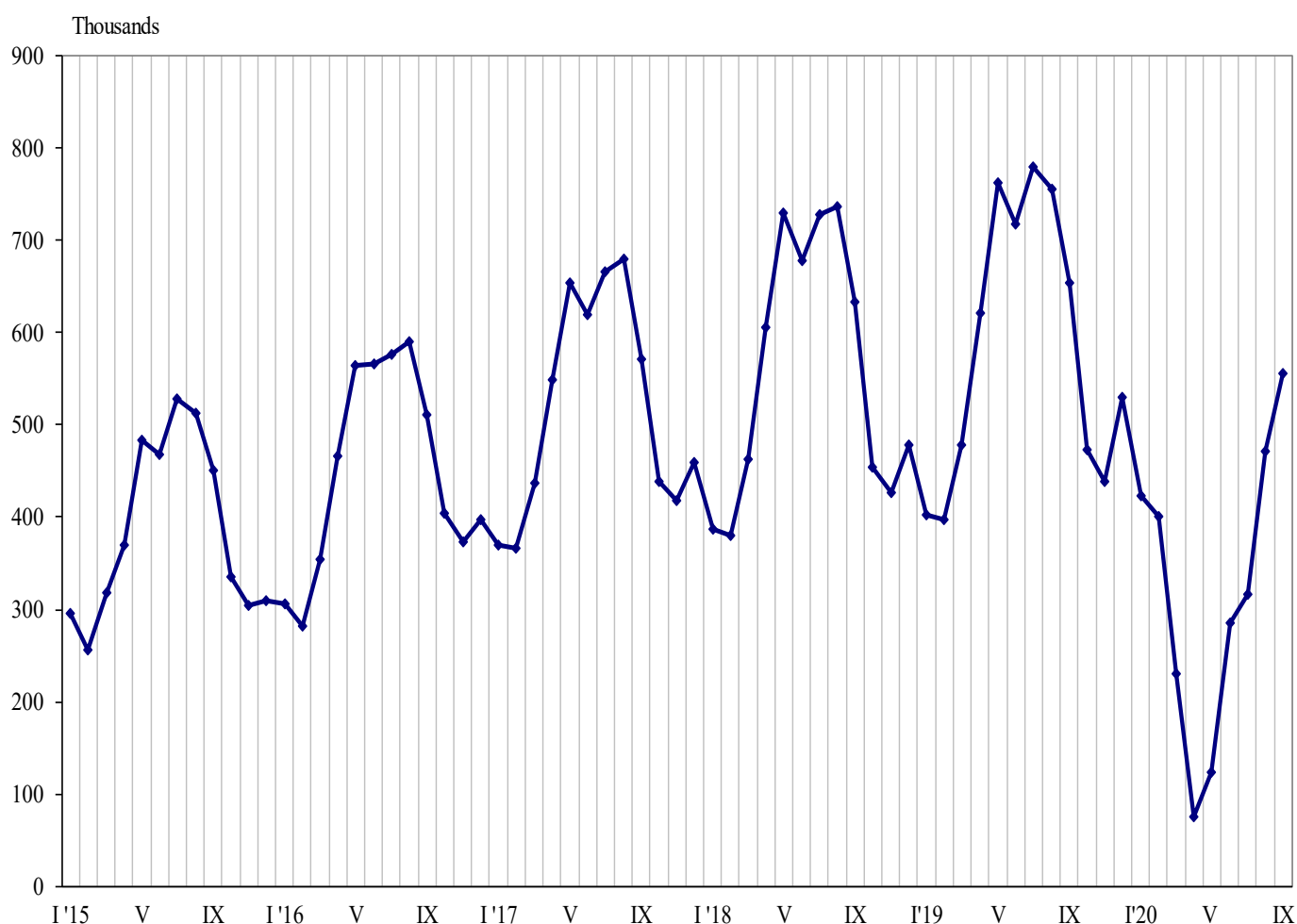


## TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA<sup>1</sup> IN SEPTEMBER 2020

In September 2020, during the continuing epidemic situation in the country, **the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 555.6 thousand, or by 15.0% under the registered in September 2019 (Figure 1).

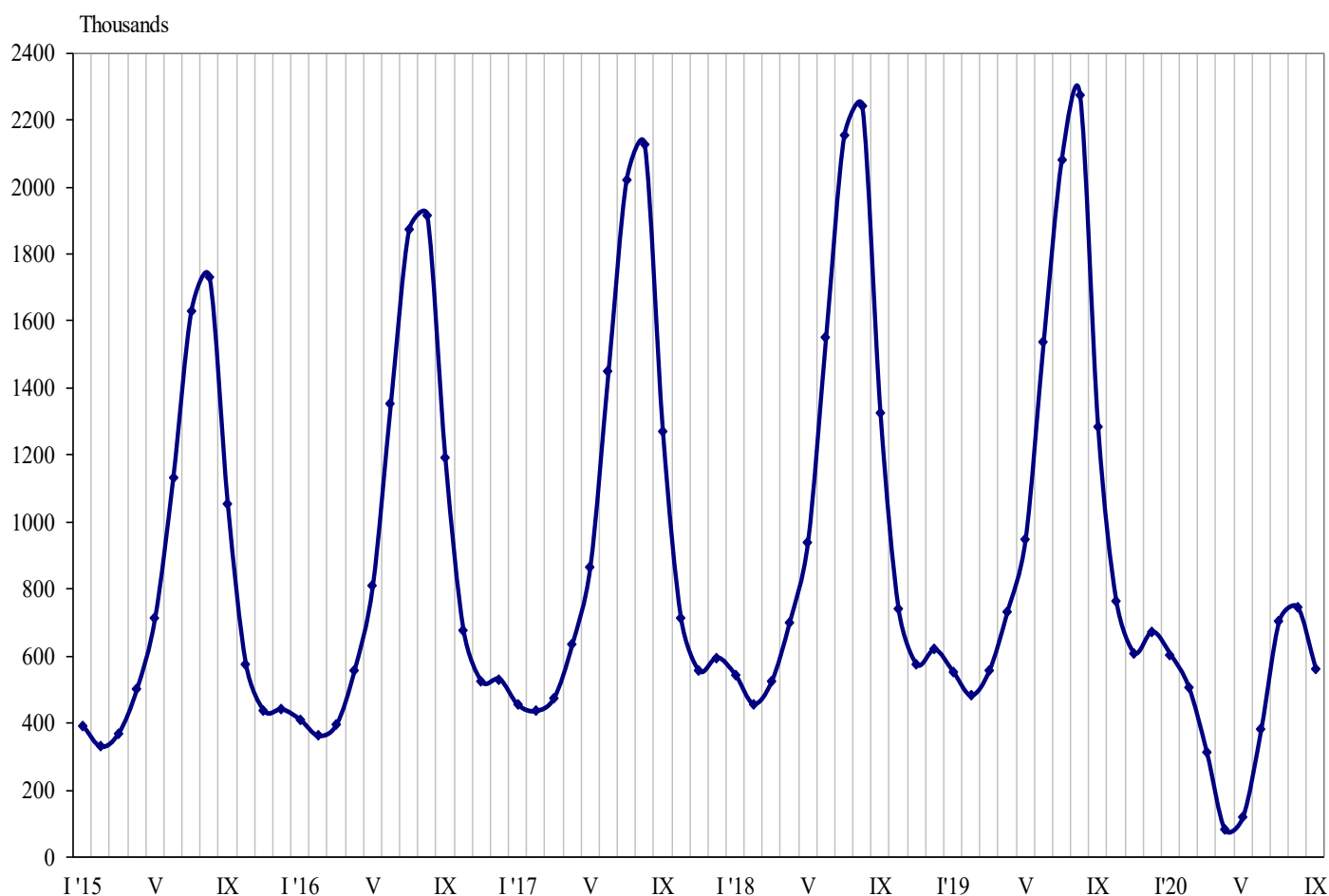
**Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months**



<sup>1</sup> Data provided by the Ministry of Interior.

In September 2020, the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria was 563.7 thousand (Annex, Table 1) or by 56.2% less in comparison with September 2019 (Figure 2). A collapse in the trips with all observed purposes was registered: ‘holiday and recreation’ - by 67.3%, ‘professional’ - by 65.0% and ‘others’ (including as guest and passing transit) - by 39.7%. Transit passes through the country were 45.2% (254.6 thousand) of all visits of foreigners to Bulgaria.

**Figure 2. Arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria by months**



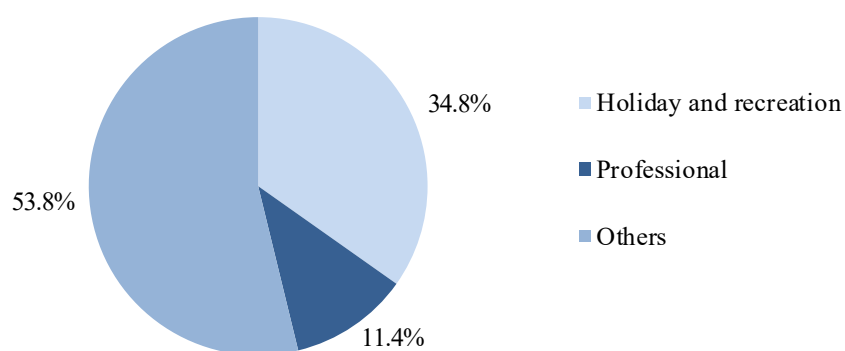
The share of visits of EU citizens was 52.9% of the total number of foreigners’ visits to Bulgaria in September 2020 or by 62.1% less in comparison with the same month of the previous year. A drop in the visits of citizens from all observed countries was registered.

The visits of foreigners in the group ‘Other European countries’<sup>1</sup> decreased by 40.2%.

<sup>1</sup> Group ‘Other European countries’ includes countries in Europe outside EU.

In September 2020, the relative share of visits by purpose was as follows: with other purposes - 53.8%, with holiday and recreation purpose - 34.8%, and with professional purpose - 11.4% (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Structure of visits of foreign citizens to Bulgaria by purpose in September 2020**



## 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 less than a year and whose main purpose is not doing any activity for payment in place visited.

**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.

In September 2020, due to the impossibility to conduct the statistical survey at the border checkpoints, all statistical data on the trips of Bulgarians abroad and the visits of foreigners in Bulgaria - total and for the purpose of the trip - were provided to the NSI by the Ministry of Interior.

Annex

Table 1

**Arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria  
by purpose of visit and country of origin in September 2020**

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
<b>Total</b>	<b>563719</b>	<b>196003</b>	<b>64541</b>	<b>303175</b>
<b>EU<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>298332</b>	<b>126313</b>	<b>31495</b>	<b>140524</b>
Austria	5049	728	380	3941
Belgium	5026	971	673	3382
Croatia	1400	59	201	1140
Cyprus	397	105	-	292
Czech Republic	7500	3804	1498	2198
Denmark	770	204	135	431
Finland	258	115	58	85
France	8209	2544	711	4954
Germany	35933	11757	587	23589
Greece	26734	19061	1952	5721
Hungary	2850	572	401	1877
Ireland	617	502	-	115
Italy	3627	1440	479	1708
Malta	78	35	-	43
Netherlands	4546	614	208	3724
Poland	29396	12937	6229	10230
Portugal	704	472	118	114
Romania	147176	65957	16484	64735
Slovakia	1089	205	99	785
Slovenia	385	157	85	143
Spain	1897	608	406	883
Sweden	1553	305	120	1128
United Kingdom	11730	2777	469	8484
Other EU countries	1408	384	202	822
<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>221073</b>	<b>54362</b>	<b>27251</b>	<b>139460</b>
Norway	321	63	-	258
Republic of North Macedonia	32805	3188	3847	25770
Russian Federation	2743	737	424	1582
Serbia	51069	22080	5330	23659
Switzerland	1508	663	-	845
Turkey	105538	13029	15014	77495
Ukraine	27089	14602	2636	9851
<b>Other countries</b>	<b>13172</b>	<b>10734</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>1984</b>
Canada	371	187	25	159
Israel	10597	10273	99	225
Japan	113	69	14	30
USA	2091	205	316	1570
<b>Rest of the world</b>	<b>31142</b>	<b>4594</b>	<b>5341</b>	<b>21207</b>

<sup>1</sup> Included UK data until the end of the transition period.

'-' - No case registered.