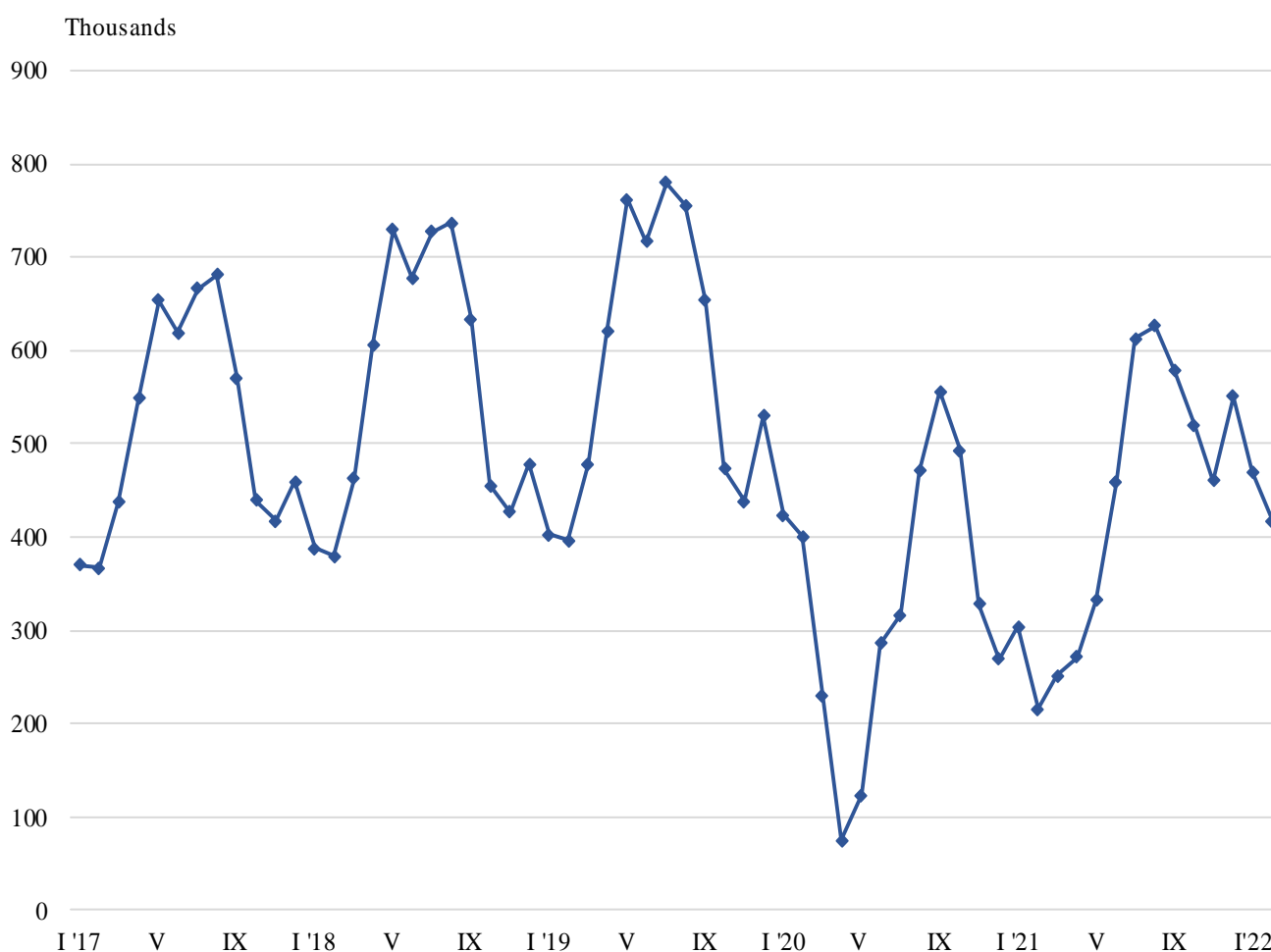


TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA¹ IN FEBRUARY 2022

In February 2022, in the conditions of the continuing epidemic situation, **the number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 417.5 thousand, or by 93.9% above the registered in February 2021 (Figure 1).

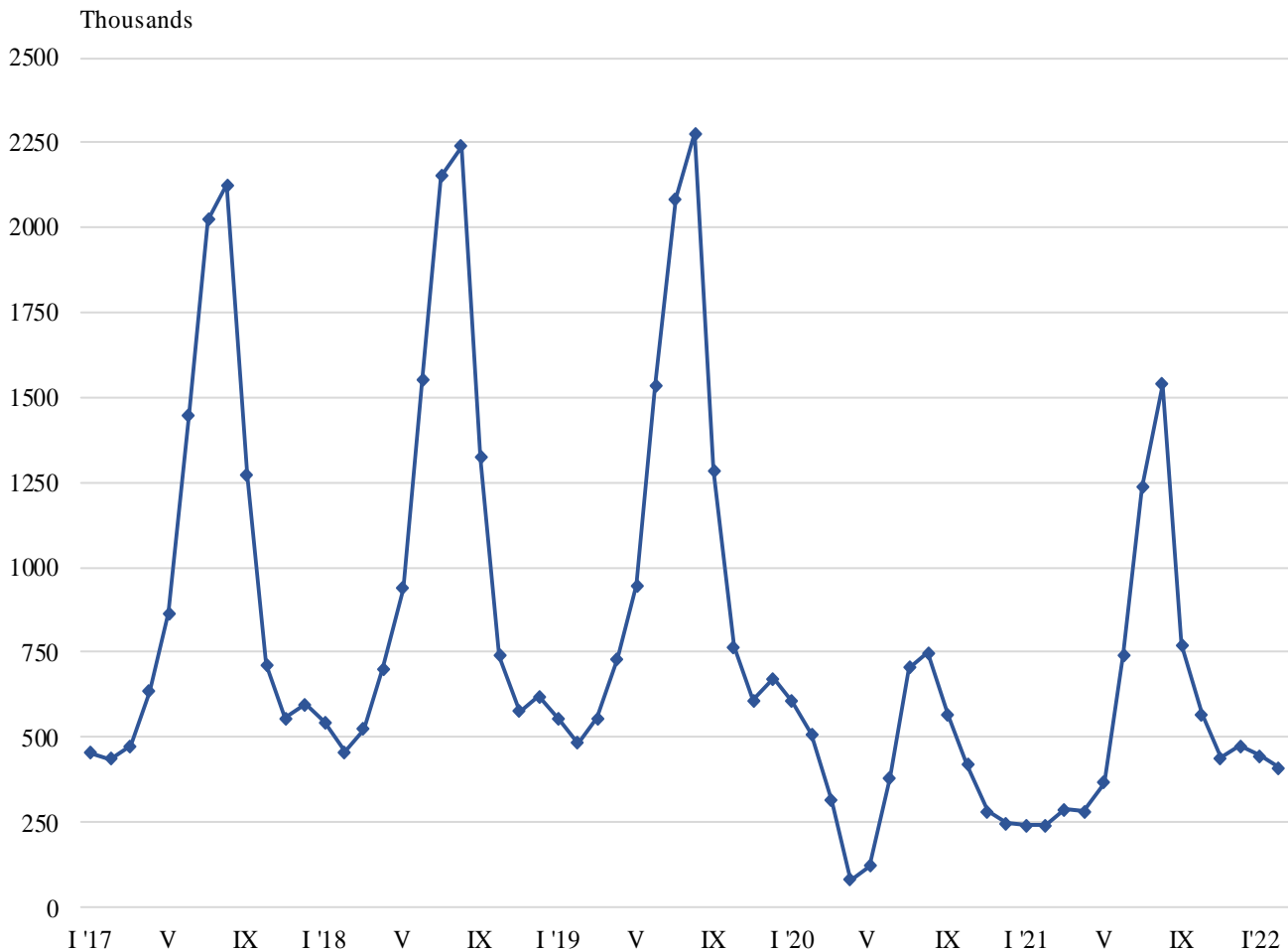
Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months



¹ Data provided by the Ministry of Interior. Due to the extension of the emergency epidemic situation in the country until 31.03.2022 with Decision 826 of the Council of Ministers of 25.11.2021 and Order № RD-01-49 of 28.01.2022 of the Minister of Health, the statistical survey 'Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad and arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria' in February was not conducted.

In February 2022, **the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria** was 409.8 thousand (Figure 2), or by 70.1% above in comparison with February 2021 (Annex, Table 1), as the transit was 39.2% (160.7 thousand) of all visits of foreigners in the country.

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



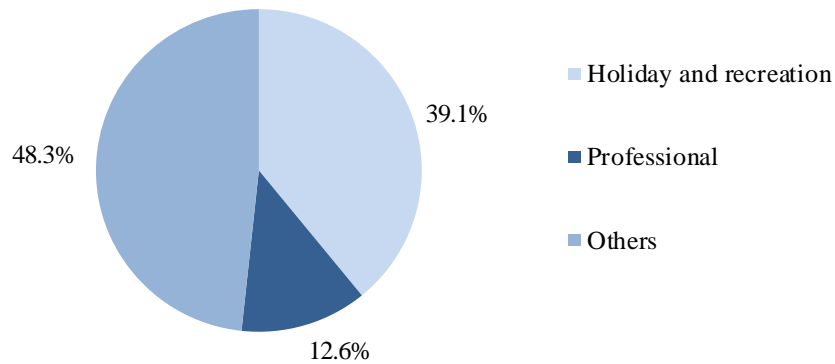
The share of visits by EU citizens was 38.0% of the total number of foreigners' visits to Bulgaria in February 2022, or 155.8 thousand, as the highest number of visits was from Romania - 38.0%, Greece - 28.4% and Germany - 6.9%.

The visits of foreigners in the group 'Other European countries'¹ were 219.4 thousand, or 53.5% of all visits to Bulgaria. The highest number of visits registered was from Turkey - 107.8 thousand, or 49.2% of the visits in this group.

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

In February 2022, the relative share of visits by purpose was as follows: with other purposes - 48.3%, with holiday and recreation purpose - 39.1% and with professional purpose - 12.6% (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Structure of visits of foreign citizens to Bulgaria by purpose in February 2022





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 (NSI).

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, etc.);
- Other (education, medical treatment, etc.) purposes.

In February 2022, 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 February 2022

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	409778	160167	51569	198042
EU	155772	59503	27556	68713
Austria	3243	564	487	2192
Belgium	2092	738	338	1016
Croatia	991	329	272	390
Cyprus	1333	538	263	532
Czechia	1613	508	414	691
Denmark	619	307	106	206
Finland	228	69	105	54
France	4504	2341	1074	1089
Germany	10742	3753	519	6470
Greece	44290	20575	8191	15524
Hungary	1786	349	154	1283
Ireland	2993	2532	-	461
Italy	6342	2894	355	3093
Malta	77	54	23	-
Netherlands	3013	1305	228	1480
Poland	5121	499	816	3806
Portugal	663	273	267	123
Romania	59147	18791	13014	27342
Slovakia	578	143	119	316
Slovenia	453	127	152	174
Spain	3175	1940	178	1057
Sweden	1146	313	217	616
Other EU countries	1623	561	264	798
Other European countries	219388	85234	22338	111816
Norway	312	78	84	150
Republic of North Macedonia	21671	12532	127	9012
Russian Federation	9448	7638	339	1471
Serbia	28614	12139	1502	14973
Switzerland	805	203	251	351
Turkey	107831	17071	19509	71251
Ukraine	20883	8029	264	12590
United Kingdom	29824	27544	262	2018
Other countries	10917	9251	369	1297
Canada	304	191	20	93
Israel	8191	7961	76	154
Japan	109	59	18	32
USA	2313	1040	255	1018
Rest of the world	23701	6179	1306	16216

'-' - No case registered.