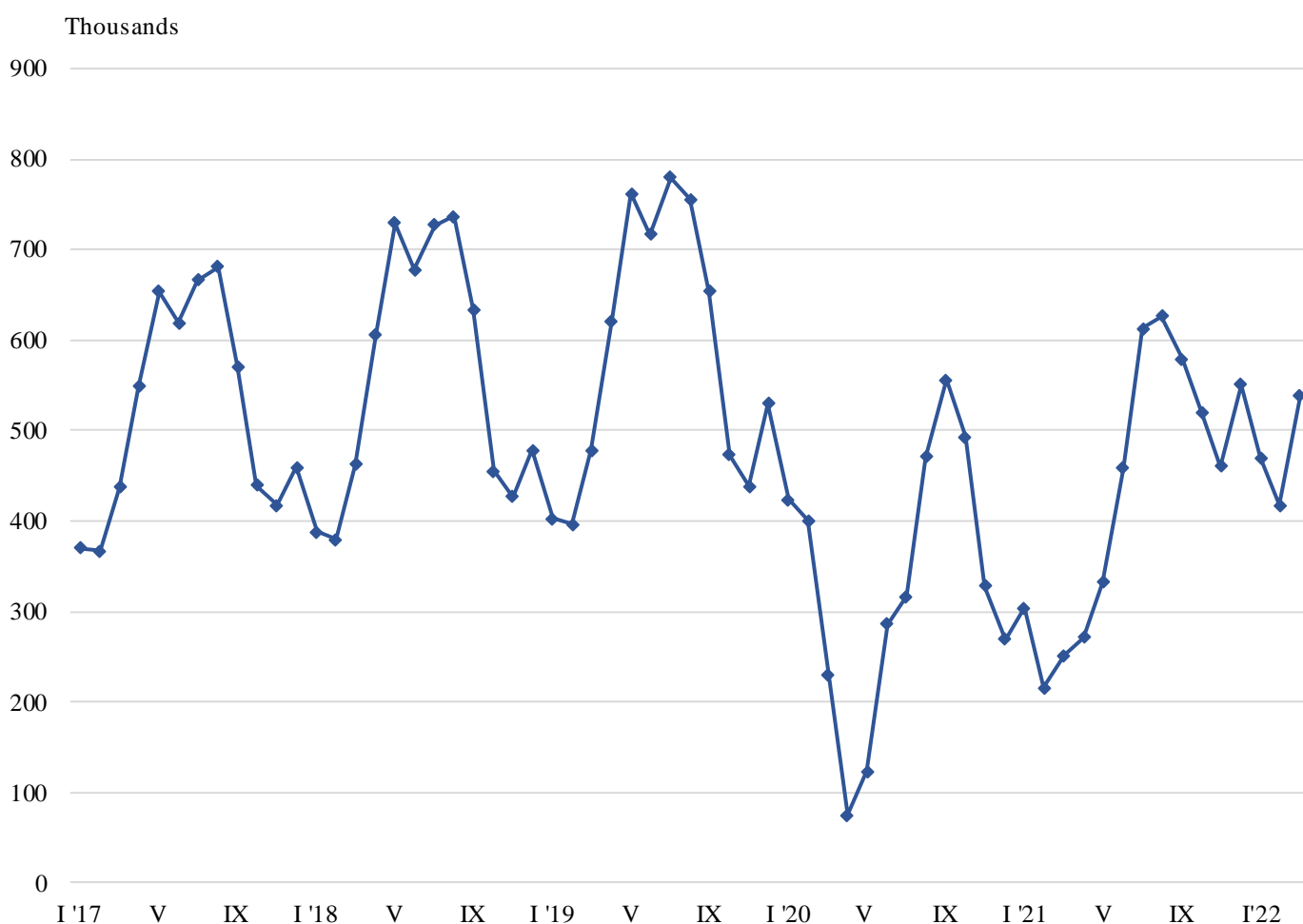


## TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA<sup>1</sup> IN MARCH 2022

In March 2022, in the conditions of the continuing epidemic situation, **the number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 538.3 thousand, or by 114.1% above the registered in March 2021 (Figure 1).

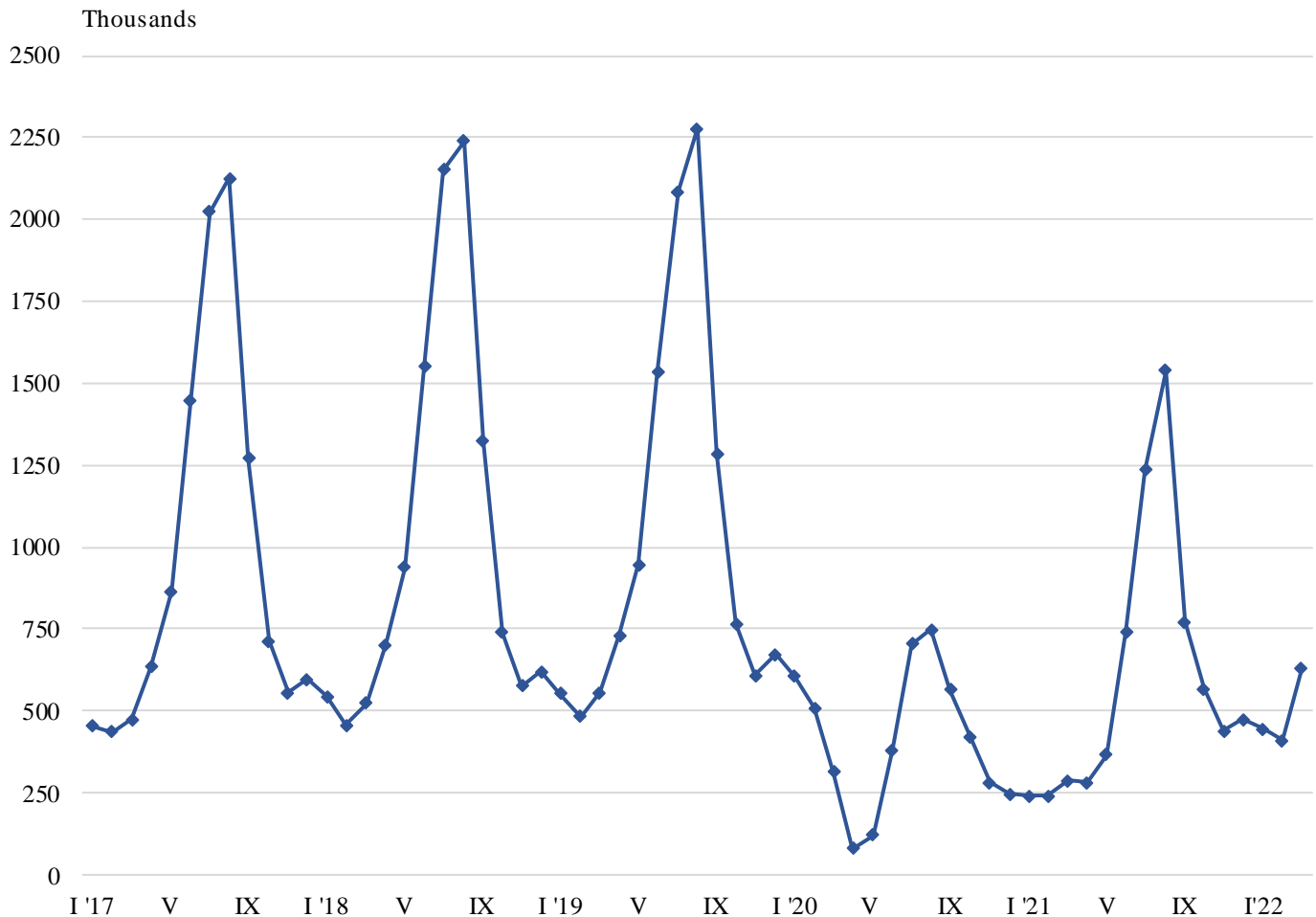
**Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months**



<sup>1</sup> 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-01-85 of 15.02.2022 of the Minister of Health, the statistical survey 'Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad and arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria' in March was not conducted.

In March 2022, the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria was 627.8 thousand (Figure 2), or by 118.1% above in comparison with March 2021 (Annex, Table 1), as the transit was 46.1% (289.6 thousand) of all visits of foreigners in the country.

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



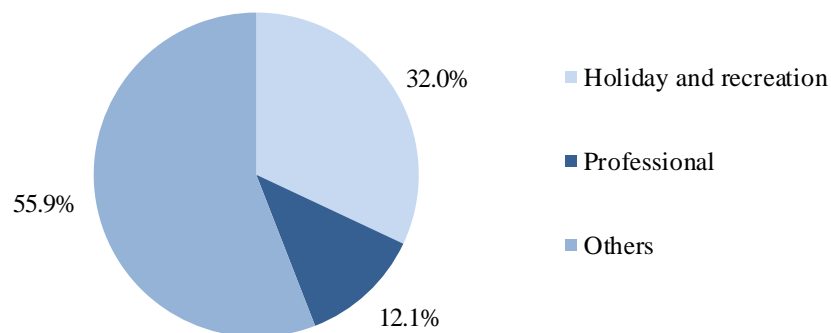
The share of visits by EU citizens was 34.8% of the total number of foreigners' visits to Bulgaria in March 2022, or 218.3 thousand, as the highest number of visits was from Romania - 37.9% and Greece - 30.1%.

The visits of foreigners in the group 'Other European countries'<sup>1</sup> were 337.9 thousand, or 53.8% of all visits to Bulgaria. The highest number of visits in this group was registered from Turkey - 36.4% and Ukraine - 33.4%.

<sup>1</sup> Group 'Other European countries' includes countries in Europe outside the EU and all data are provided by the Ministry of Interior.

In March 2022, the relative share of visits by purpose was as follows: with other purposes - 55.9%, with holiday and recreation purpose - 32.0% and with professional purpose - 12.1% (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Structure of visits of foreign citizens to Bulgaria by purpose in March 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 the place visited.

**The purposes of visiting** a country are the following:

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

In March 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 March 2022

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit <sup>1</sup>		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
<b>Total</b>	<b>627774</b>	<b>201071</b>	<b>75981</b>	<b>350722</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>218269</b>	<b>64847</b>	<b>30222</b>	<b>123200</b>
Austria	3666	707	367	2592
Belgium	2410	673	402	1335
Croatia	1970	308	373	1289
Cyprus	1558	779	195	584
Czechia	2028	495	393	1140
Denmark	622	378	112	132
Finland	358	246	52	60
France	4355	2588	326	1441
Germany	15818	5726	506	9586
Greece	65774	33145	7985	24644
Hungary	3409	487	230	2692
Ireland	2052	1436	214	402
Italy	8093	4840	753	2500
Malta	150	75	22	53
Netherlands	4010	1325	670	2015
Poland	9735	1146	1697	6892
Portugal	949	500	158	291
Romania	82681	6532	14635	61514
Slovakia	1278	218	183	877
Slovenia	553	252	128	173
Spain	3731	1934	209	1588
Sweden	1240	397	227	616
Other EU countries	1829	660	385	784
<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>337878</b>	<b>115541</b>	<b>38776</b>	<b>183561</b>
Norway	369	148	74	147
Republic of North Macedonia	32921	14396	4733	13792
Russian Federation	5188	2164	245	2779
Serbia	41883	10524	7875	23484
Switzerland	1016	305	203	508
Turkey	123113	18375	22491	82247
Ukraine	112977	52272	2588	58117
United Kingdom	20411	17357	567	2487
<b>Other countries</b>	<b>16326</b>	<b>13526</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>2166</b>
Canada	484	304	31	149
Israel	11619	11080	144	395
Japan	114	72	18	24
USA	4109	2070	441	1598
<b>Rest of the world</b>	<b>55301</b>	<b>7157</b>	<b>6349</b>	<b>41795</b>

<sup>1</sup> The data for purpose of visit of foreigners are declarative and provided by the Ministry of Interior.