

TOURIST TRIPS AND TOURISM-RELATED EXPENDITURES OF POPULATION FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2009

By preliminary data, 1 168 thousand Bulgarian residents¹ travelled to the country and abroad in the first quarter of 2009. The total number of the persons travelled with tourist purpose increased by 18.6% in comparison with the same period of 2008. The number of the Bulgarian residents travelled in the country increased by 25.7%, while persons travelled abroad decreased by 20.5 % (Fig. 1).

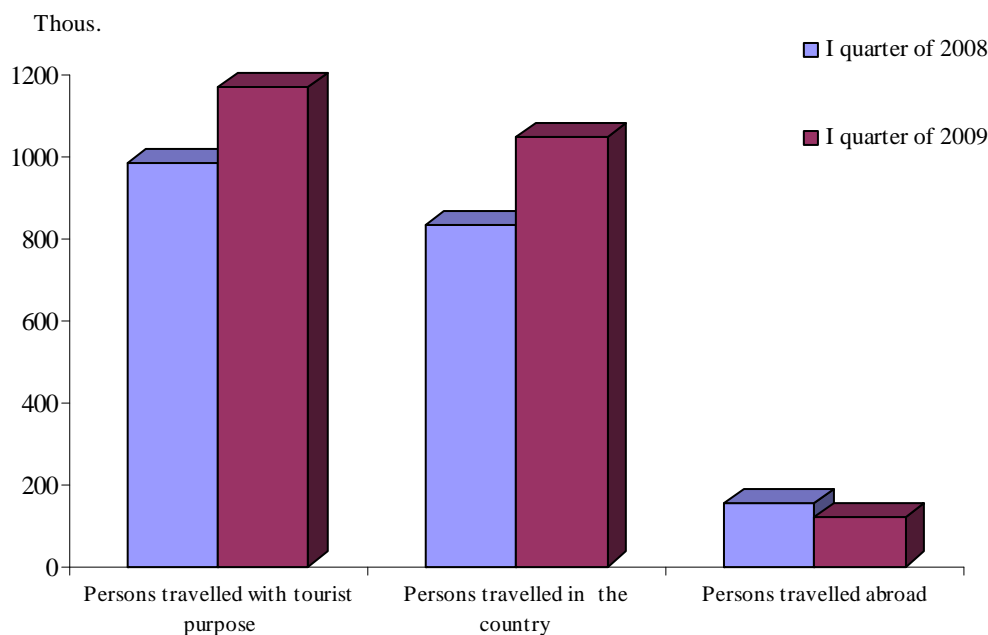


Fig. 1: Persons travelled of 15 years of age and over with tourist purpose in the country and abroad for the first quarter of 2008 and for the first quarter of 2009

The highest part of the persons travelled in the country (46.9%) declared as a main reason of their trip “Visit relatives” while 64.0% of travelers abroad gave as a main purpose “Holiday and excursion”.

Persons travelled of 15 years of age and over with tourist purpose by reasons for the first quarter of 2009

Destination of trips	Reasons for trip					
	Total	Private				Professional
		Holiday and excursion	Visit relatives	Education	Others	
	NUMBER					
Total	1167707	416309	508274	11267	137042	94815
In the country	1046956	339009	490851	11267	130445	75384
Abroad	120751	77300	17423	-	6597	19431
	STRUCTURE - %					
Total	100.0	35.7	43.5	1.0	11.7	8.1
In the country	100.0	32.4	46.9	1.1	12.5	7.2
Abroad	100.0	64.0	14.4	-	5.5	16.1

¹ The objects of the survey are the residents of 15 years age and over.

The travelled residents aged 25-44 were the highest part (45.8%) of the total number of the residents travelled with private purpose in the first quarter of 2009. The age group 25-44 years old was the highest share (54.9%) of the total persons travelled with professional purpose.

Persons travelled of 15 years of age and over with tourist purpose by type of trip for the first quarter of 2009

Table 2

Age (Years)	Total	Private	Professional
NUMBER			
Total	1167708	1072892	94815
15-24	202509	195479	7030
25-34	269538	243603	25935
35-44	274108	248008	26100
45-54	192100	167209	24891
55-64	150568	140659	9909
65 and over	78885	77934	950
STRUCTURE - %			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
15-24	17.3	18.2	7.4
25-34	23.1	22.7	27.4
35-44	23.5	23.1	27.5
45-54	16.5	15.6	26.3
55-64	12.9	13.1	10.5
65 and over	6.8	7.3	1.0

In the first quarter of 2009 the structure of tourist trips' expenditures by type showed that expenditures on food were the highest percentage from the total expenditures on domestic trips - 39.0% and 30.9% from total expenditures on outbound trips (fig. 2).

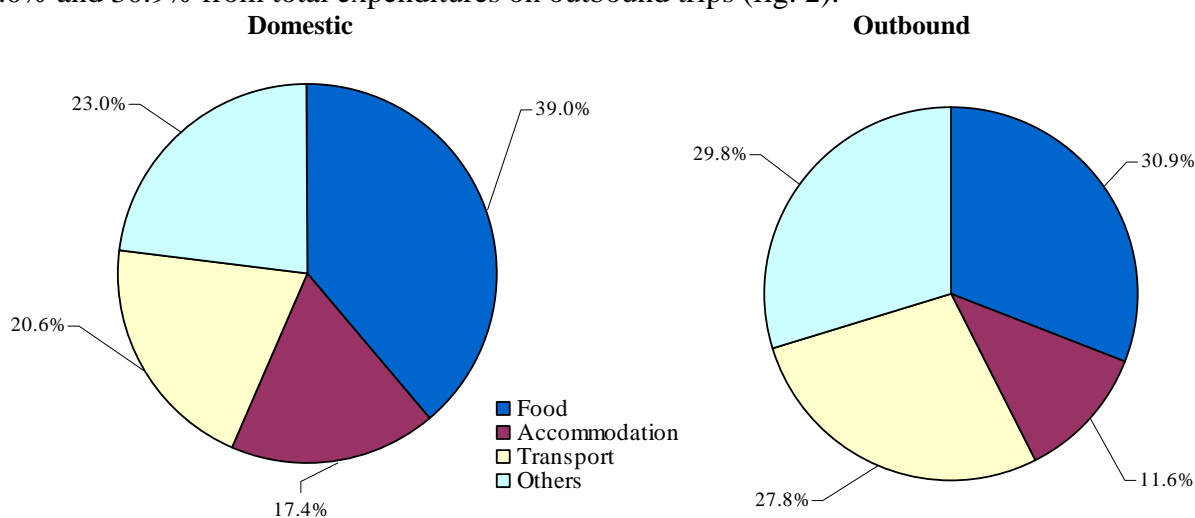


Fig. 2: Structure of the expenditures by type for domestic and outbound tourist trips for the first quarter 2009

In the first quarter of 2009 a person of 15 years and over spent 61 BGN for its private domestic trip on the average and 111 BGN for outbound trips. At the same time a person of 15 years and over spent on the average 138 BGN for its professional domestic trip and 1 216 BGN for professional outbound trips.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The applied to the statistical survey on tourist trips and tourism-related expenditures of residents' definitions are in full compliance with the requirements of the Directive 95/57 EC concerning data collection in the field of tourism.

Tourist trip is every private or professional trip outside the place of the resident for no more than one year. The tourist trips are divided in private and business trips in accordance with the motives of the trips.

The private trips cover holiday, excursion, visit culture and sport events, medical treatment, education, religion activities, visit relatives and friends and other trips.

The professional trips include business trip, participation in conference, congress and seminars, conclude bargains and others.

The objects of the survey are the residents of 15 years age and over. All persons of 15 years age and over, members of the selected households are interviewed.

The Statistical survey on tourist trips and tourism-related expenditures of residents is a representative and it is conducted on the basis of households' sample in the country. The sample size is 12 000 households.

The current demographic data on total population aged 15 and over by place of residence (urban/rural), sex and age groups are used for survey results' estimations at the end of 2008.