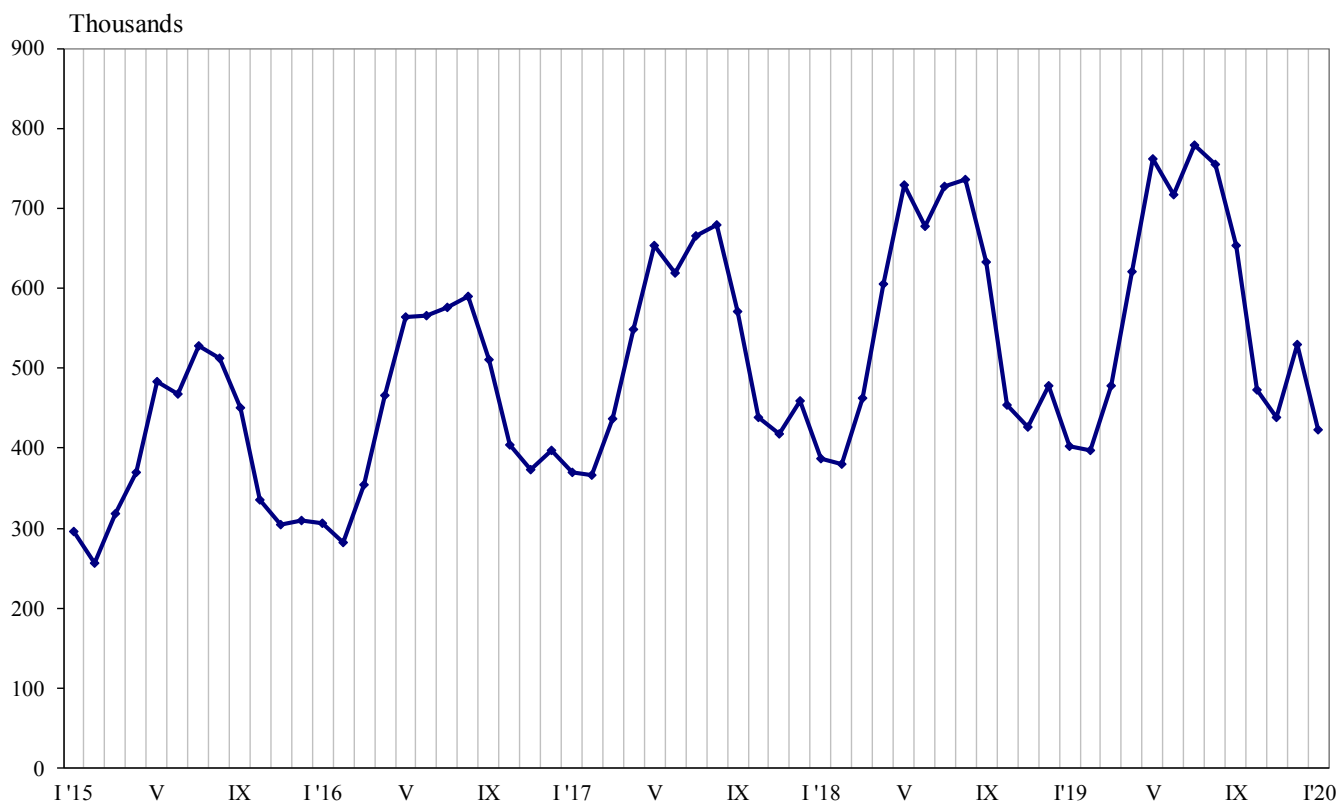


TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA IN JANUARY 2020

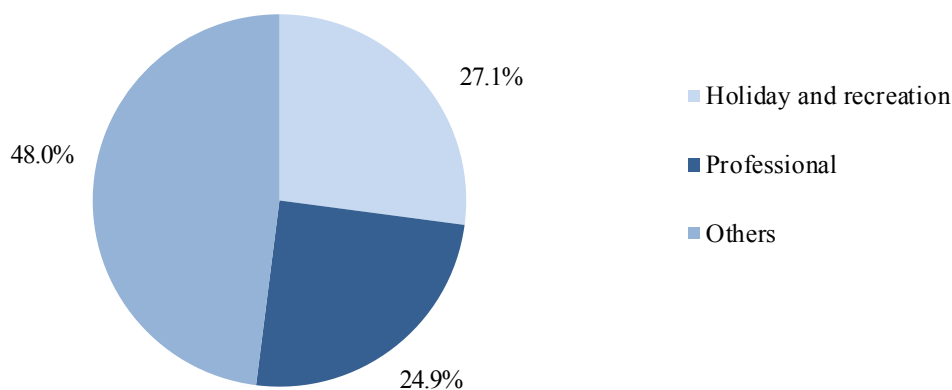
In January 2020, **the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 423.1 thousand (Annex, Table 1) or by 5.1% above the registered in January 2019 (Figure 1). In comparison with the same month of the previous year, an increase was observed in the total number of the trips of Bulgarians to: Turkey - by 15.7%, Italy - by 11.1%, Serbia - by 9.8%, Austria - by 6.7%, the United Kingdom - by 6.4%, Republic of North Macedonia - by 6.3%, Germany - by 5.3%, Romania - by 3.4%, and etc. At the same time decreased the trips to: France - by 6.9%, Spain - by 3.8%, Greece - by 0.8%, and etc.

Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months



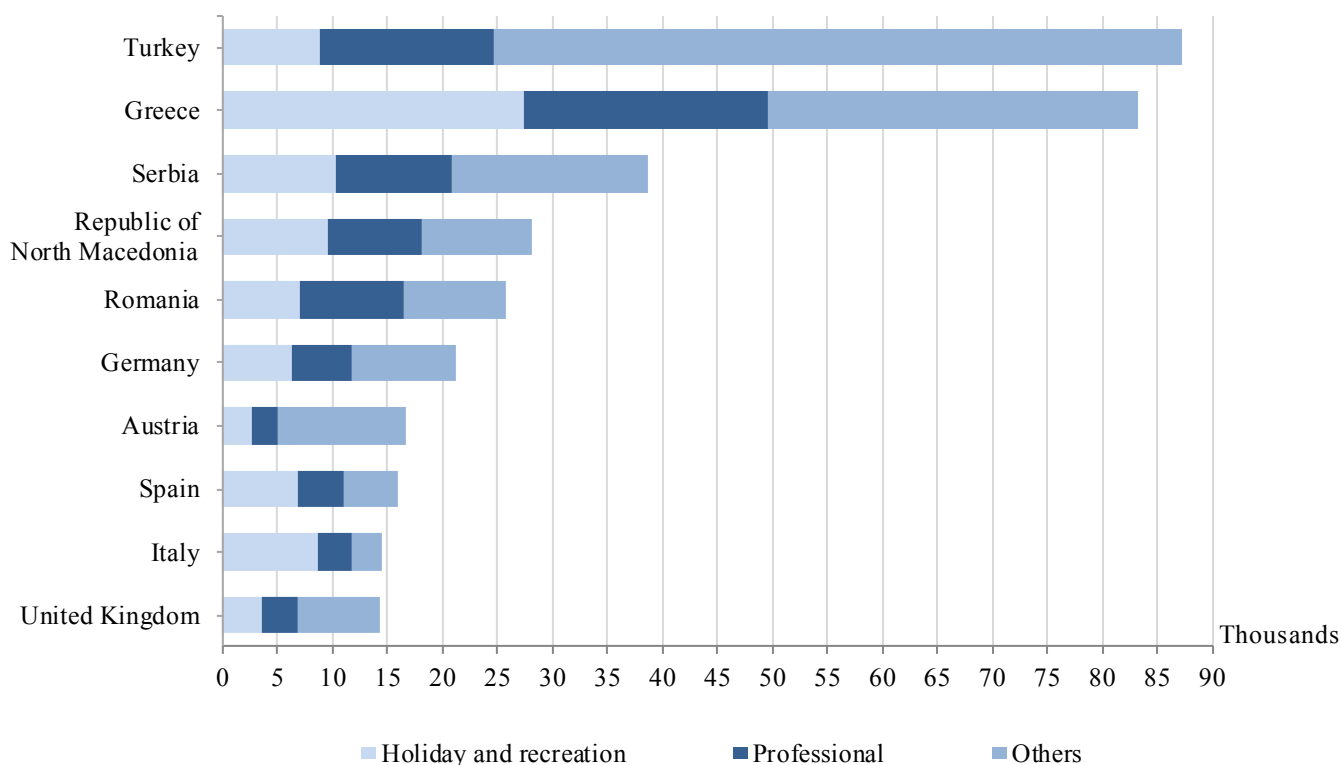
In comparison with January 2019, an increase in the trips with all observed purposes was registered: ‘holiday and recreation’ - by 10.9%, ‘others’ - by 4.4%, and ‘professional’- by 0.8%. The trips with other purposes (as a guest, education and visit the cultural and sport events) in January 2020 composed the greatest share of the total number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad - 48.0%, followed by those with holiday and recreation purposes - 27.1%, and with professional purpose - 24.9% (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Structure of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit in January 2020



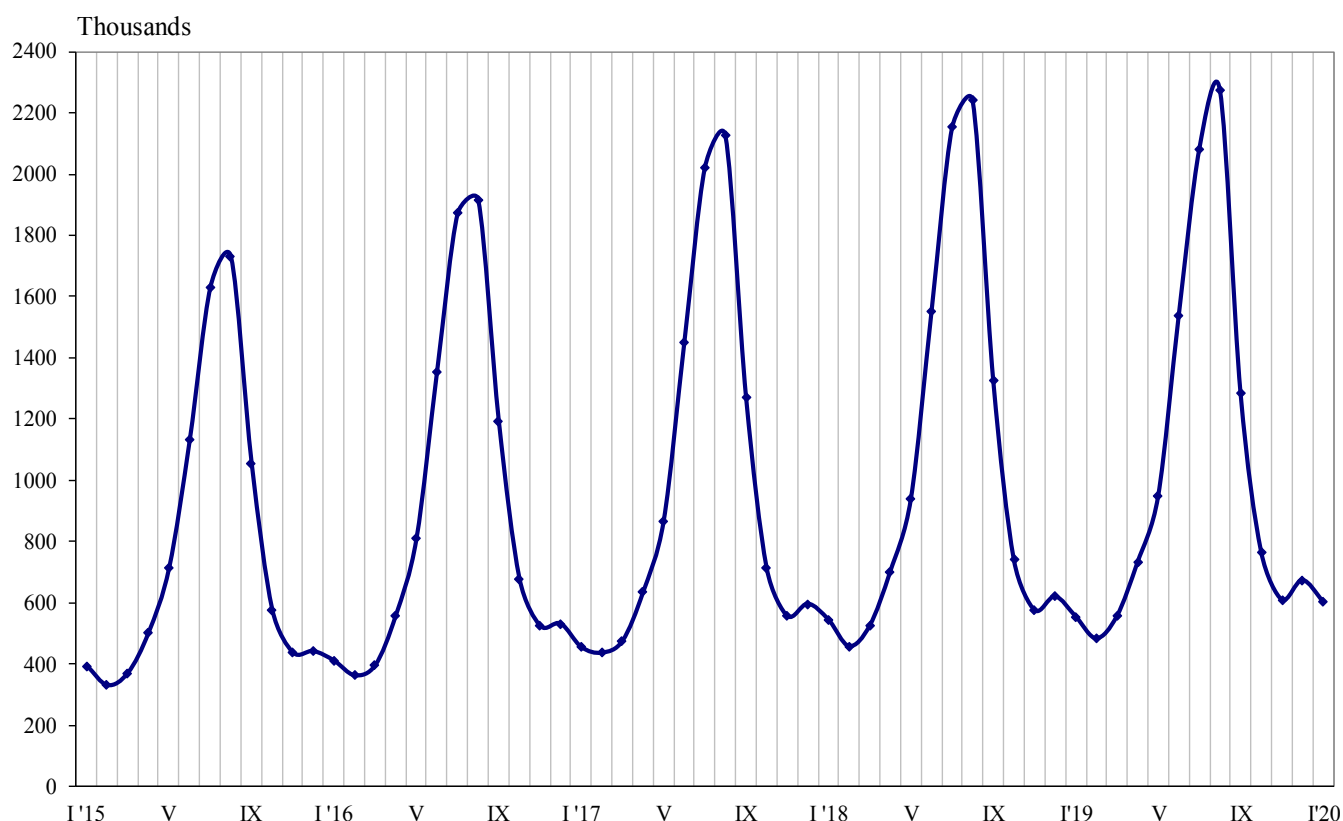
In January 2020 most trips of Bulgarian citizens were made to: Turkey - 87.3 thousand, Greece - 83.4 thousand, Serbia - 38.7 thousand, Republic of North Macedonia - 28.2 thousand, Romania - 25.8 thousand, Germany - 21.2 thousand, Austria - 16.6 thousand, Spain - 15.9 thousand, Italy - 14.3 thousand, the United Kingdom - 14.3 thousand (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Top foreign destinations for Bulgarian residents by purpose of visit in January 2020



In January 2020, **the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria** was 604.6 thousand (Annex, Table 2) or by 9.1% more in comparison with January 2019 (Figure 4). An increase in the trips with all observed purposes was registered: ‘others’ (including as guest and passing transit) - by 12.4%, ‘holiday and recreation’ - by 8.3% and ‘professional’ - by 3.6%. Transit passes through the country were 20.8% (125.6 thousand) of all visits of foreigners to Bulgaria.

Figure 4. Arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria by months



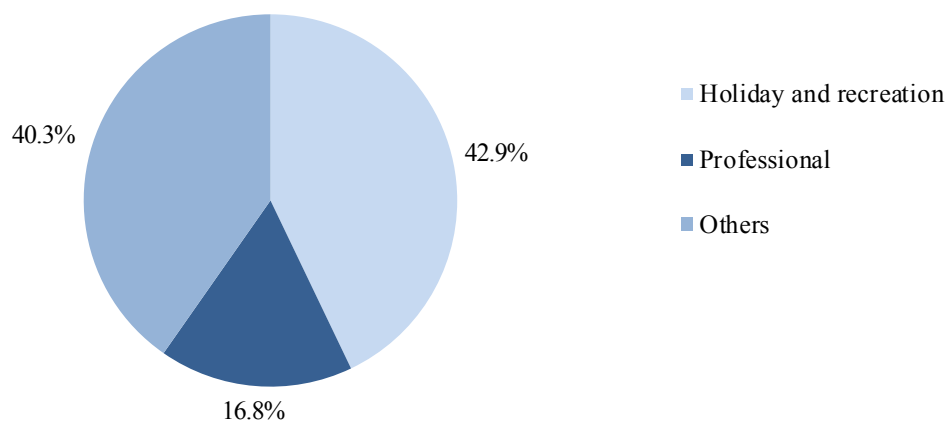
The share of visits of EU citizens was 45.7% of the total number of foreigners’ visits to Bulgaria in January 2020 or by 3.9% more in comparison with the same month of the previous year. An increase was registered in the visits of citizens from Italy - by 16.4%, Germany - by 16.1%, Romania - by 15.1%, Poland - by 10.4%, Austria - by 4.5%, and etc. At the same time decreased the visits from Belgium - by 19.8%, the United Kingdom - by 9.3%, Greece - by 4.7%, and etc.

The visits of foreigners in the group ‘Other European countries’¹ increased by 14.3%, as the highest increase was observed in the visits of citizens of Turkey - by 22.7%.

In January 2020, the predominant share of the visits with holiday and recreation purpose was 42.9%, followed by trips with other purposes - 40.3%, and with professional purpose - 16.8% (Figure 5).

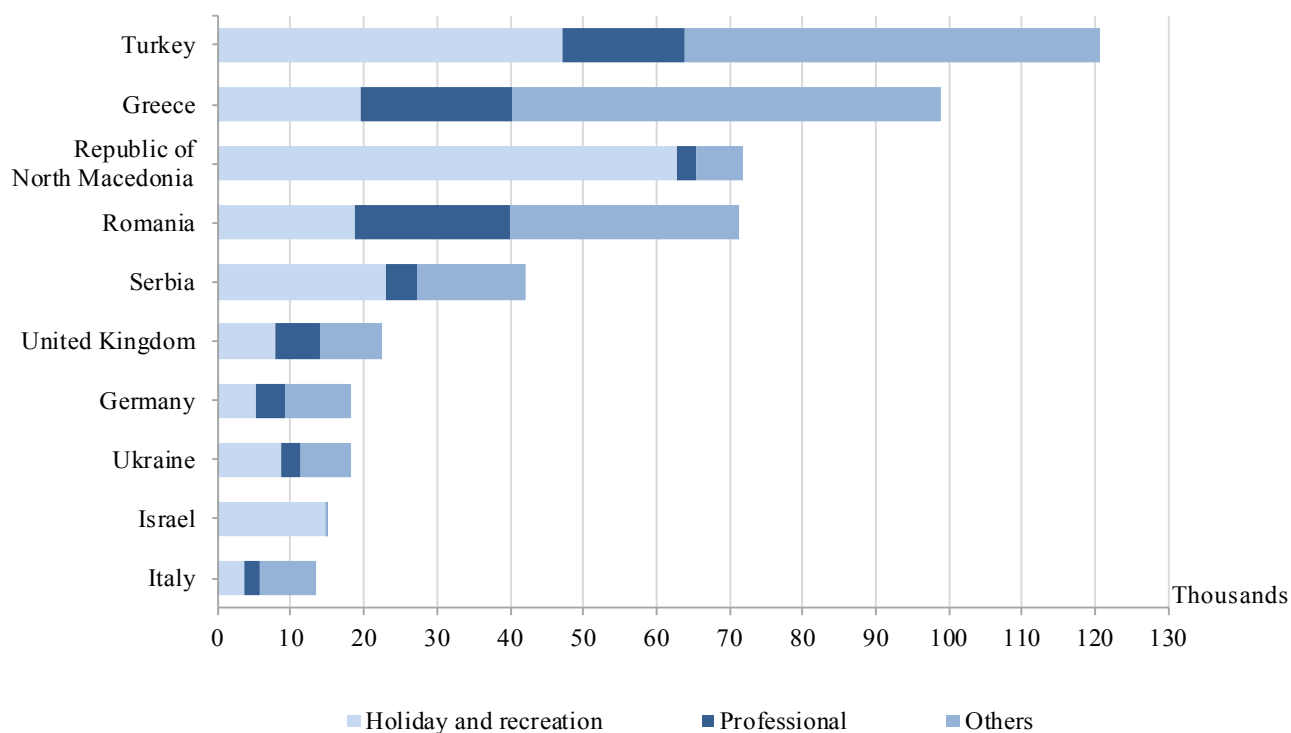
¹ Group ‘Other European countries’ includes countries in Europe outside EU.

Figure 5. Structure of visits of foreign citizens to Bulgaria by purpose in January 2020



In January 2020 the most visits to Bulgaria were from: Turkey - 120.7 thousand, Greece - 98.8 thousand, Republic of North Macedonia - 71.8 thousand, Romania - 71.3 thousand, Serbia - 42.0 thousand, the United Kingdom - 22.5 thousand, Germany - 18.2 thousand, Ukraine - 18.0 thousand, Israel - 15.0 thousand, Italy - 13.5 thousand (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Top visits by foreigners to Bulgaria by country of residence and purpose in January 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.

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 purpose of visit
and country of destination in January 2020**

Country of destination	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	423065	114810	105159	203096
EU	253728	81664	64892	107172
Austria	16588	2714	2413	11461
Belgium	8007	1264	4214	2529
Croatia	1222	491	218	513
Cyprus	796	568	228	-
Czech Republic	11305	2335	2003	6967
Denmark	2227	645	227	1355
Finland	360	105	255	-
France	13167	4389	1893	6885
Germany	21219	6346	5354	9519
Greece	83423	27447	22235	33741
Hungary	2970	1880	496	594
Ireland	793	337	185	271
Italy	14331	8701	3071	2559
Malta	295	167	128	-
Netherlands	4558	1595	684	2279
Poland	4953	1238	1115	2600
Portugal	1777	583	208	986
Romania	25830	7140	9371	9319
Slovakia	4398	1466	861	2071
Slovenia	2444	1105	528	811
Spain	15945	6787	4319	4839
Sweden	1802	601	1201	-
United Kingdom	14264	3599	3332	7333
Other EU countries	1054	161	353	540
Other European countries	160155	29252	37729	93174
Norway	698	118	152	428
Republic of North Macedonia	28226	9547	8717	9962
Russian Federation	2285	163	1306	816
Serbia	38655	10254	10468	17933
Switzerland	2291	378	1018	895
Turkey	87279	8792	15941	62546
Ukraine	721	-	127	594
Other countries	2128	499	361	1268
Canada	240	38	53	149
Israel	1037	324	65	648
USA	851	137	243	471
Rest of the world	7054	3395	2177	1482

Table 2

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

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	604553	259133	101648	243772
EU	276284	70862	67746	137676
Austria	8393	1905	1685	4803
Belgium	3218	519	1038	1661
Croatia	2286	1016	383	887
Cyprus	1644	354	527	763
Czech Republic	1634	762	430	442
Denmark	798	385	119	294
Finland	376	146	127	103
France	6059	2020	1515	2524
Germany	18224	5092	4211	8921
Greece	98849	19574	20553	58722
Hungary	3568	915	343	2310
Ireland	1767	1151	272	344
Italy	13451	3668	2140	7643
Malta	314	209	-	105
Netherlands	3573	564	1517	1492
Poland	8132	2620	2848	2664
Portugal	1016	406	180	430
Romania	71262	18736	21220	31306
Slovakia	1318	296	101	921
Slovenia	684	350	163	171
Spain	4275	1069	1450	1756
Sweden	1200	518	200	482
United Kingdom	22474	7874	6186	8414
Other EU countries	1769	713	538	518
Other European countries	265116	150491	27383	87242
Norway	457	157	109	191
Republic of North Macedonia	71753	62769	2774	6210
Russian Federation	10762	8382	474	1906
Serbia	42016	22997	4223	14796
Switzerland	1343	450	316	577
Turkey	120736	47137	16816	56783
Ukraine	18049	8599	2671	6779
Other countries	19572	18229	650	693
Canada	571	442	40	89
Israel	15031	14687	151	193
Japan	639	548	43	48
USA	3331	2552	416	363
Rest of the world	43581	19551	5869	18161