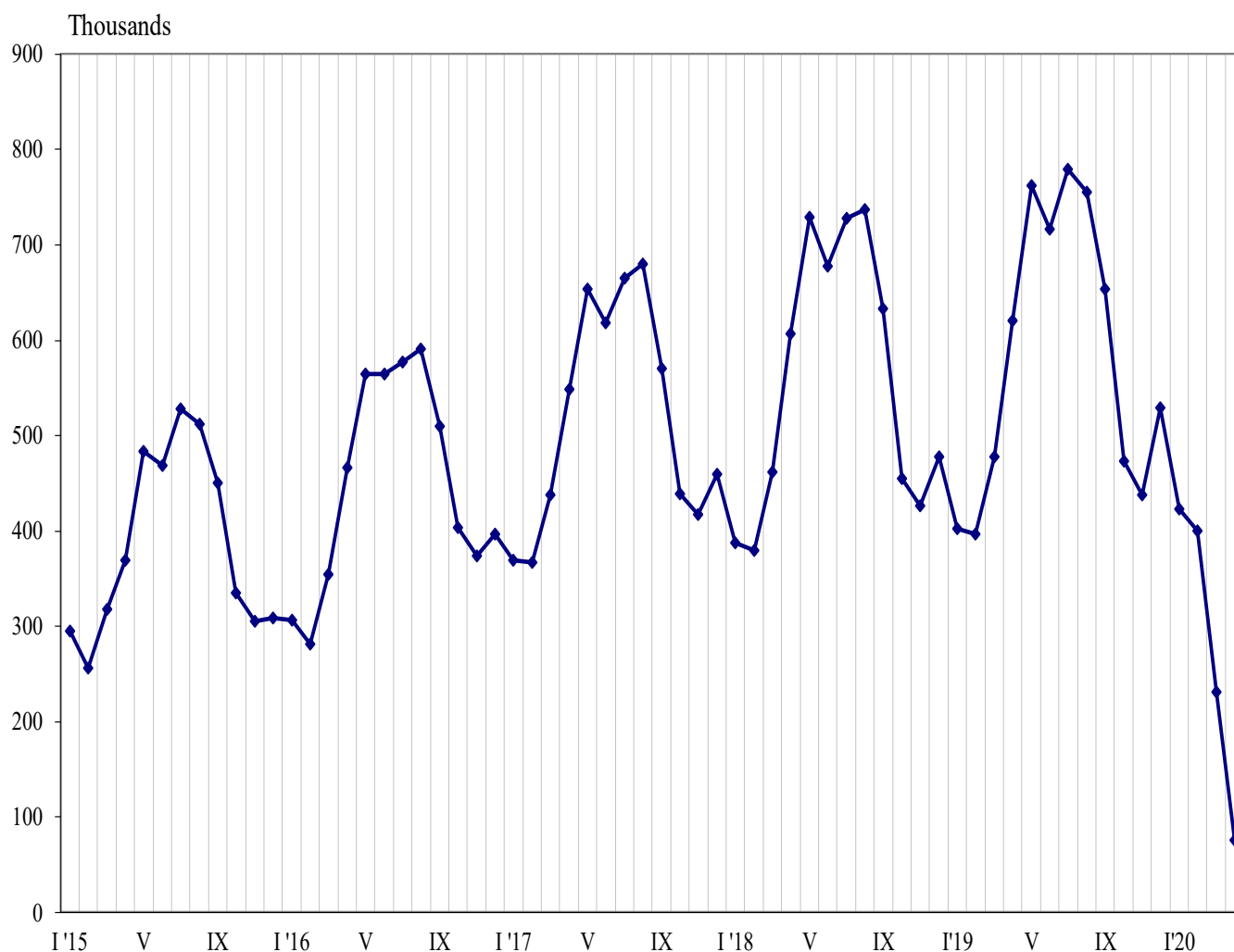


TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA¹ IN APRIL 2020

In April 2020, the collapse of the trips of Bulgarian citizens abroad and the visits of foreigners to Bulgaria continued due to the suspension of international flights and the closure of the land borders because of the worldwide spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

In April 2020, the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad was 75.3 thousand, or by 87.9% under the registered in April 2019. In comparison with March 2020 the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad declined by 67.4% (Figure 1).

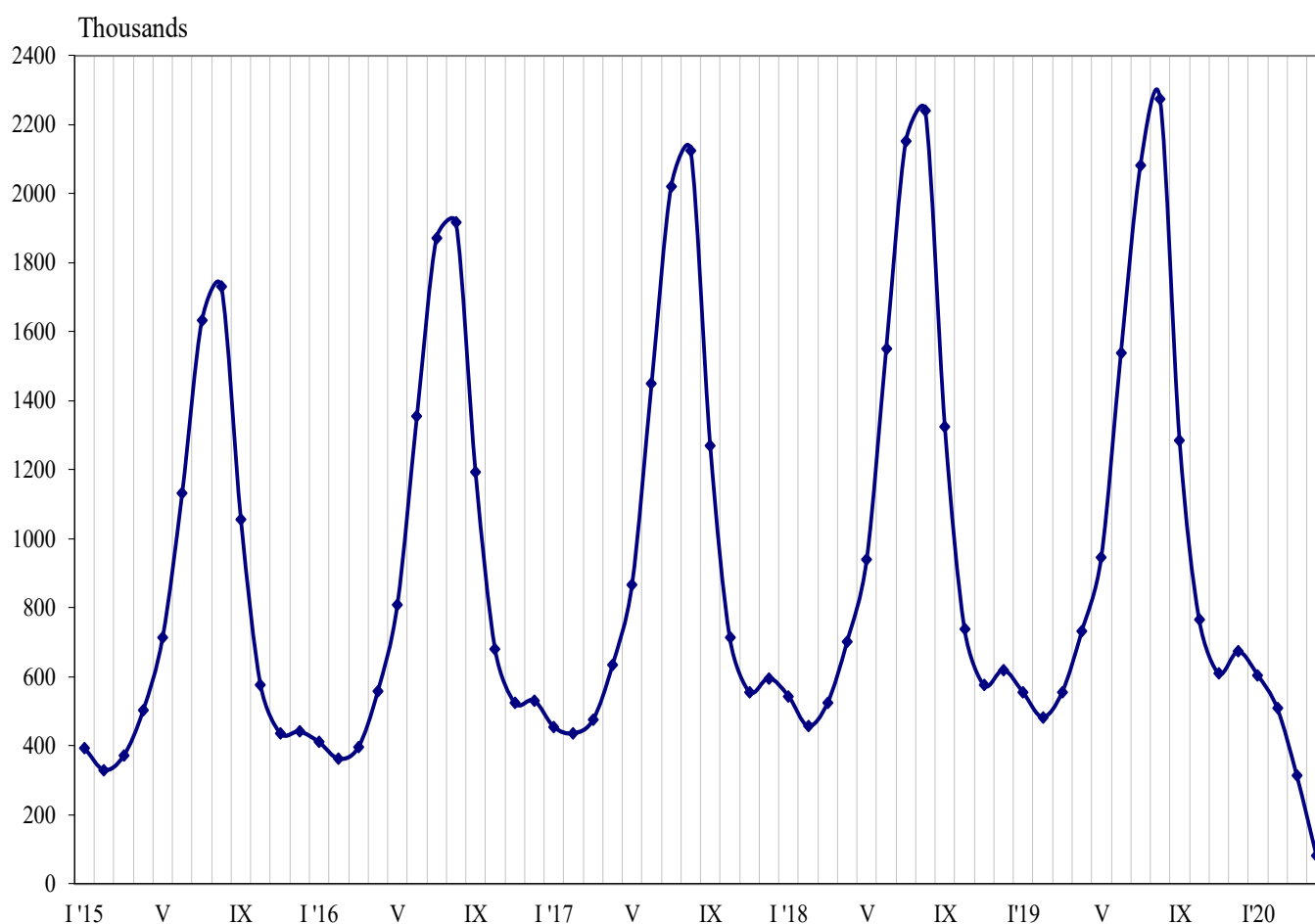
Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months



¹ Data provided by the Ministry of Interior.

In April 2020, **the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria** was 81.2 thousand (Annex, Table 1) or by 88.9% less in comparison with April 2019. Compared to March 2020, the drop was by 74.1% (Figure 2). A collapse in the trips with all observed purposes was registered: ‘holiday and recreation’ - by 99.8%, ‘professional’ - by 84.5% and ‘others’ (including as guest and passing transit) - by 80.6%. Transit passes through the country were 62.9% (51.1 thousand) of all visits of foreigners to Bulgaria.

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



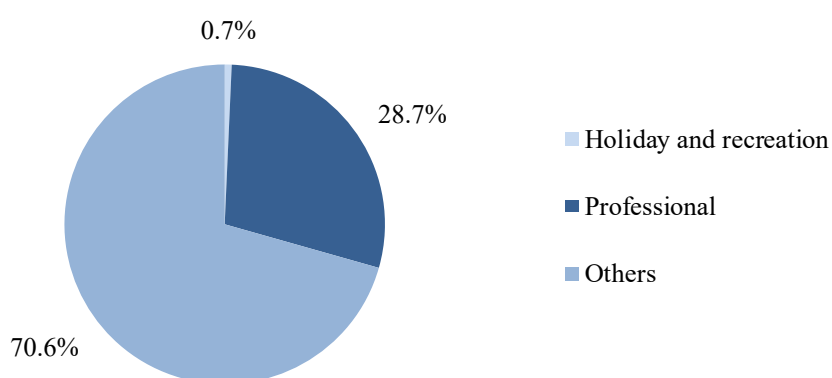
The share of visits of EU citizens was 34.5% of the total number of foreigners’ visits to Bulgaria in April 2020 or by 93.1% less in comparison with the same month of the previous year. A drop in the visits of citizens from all observed countries was registered.

The visits of foreigners in the group ‘Other European countries’¹ decreased by 81.5%.

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

In April 2020, the relative share of visits by purpose was as follows: with other purposes - 70.6%, followed by trips with professional purpose - 28.7%, and with holiday and recreation purpose - 0.7% (Figure 3).

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

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

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	81153	586	23323	57244
EU¹	27968	307	6009	21652
Austria	93	-	93	-
Belgium	31	-	5	26
Croatia	351	-	234	117
Cyprus	6	-	6	-
Czech Republic	433	-	-	433
Denmark	17	-	-	17
Finland	..	-	-	..
France	38	-	-	38
Germany	252	-	116	136
Greece	3769	83	1349	2337
Hungary	1171	28	181	962
Ireland	23	-	-	23
Italy	263	8	215	40
Malta	..	-	-	..
Netherlands	152	-	-	152
Poland	4016	52	192	3772
Portugal	20	-	-	20
Romania	16104	136	3266	12702
Slovakia	280	-	93	187
Slovenia	38	-	38	-
Spain	95	-	-	95
Sweden	20	-	-	20
United Kingdom	196	-	39	157
Other EU countries	597	-	182	415
Other European countries	46172	231	15404	30537
Norway	5	..	..	..
Republic of North Macedonia	3606	32	2063	1511
Russian Federation	635	..	..	529
Serbia	6487	71	3699	2717
Switzerland	..	-	..	..
Turkey	31086	48	8186	22852
Ukraine	4331	78	1345	2908
Other countries	940	3	14	923
Canada	..	-	-	..
Israel	..	..	..	..
Japan	-	-	-	-
USA	932	..	..	918
Rest of the world	6073	45	1896	4132

¹Included UK data until the end of the transition period.

"-" no case registered

".." confidential data