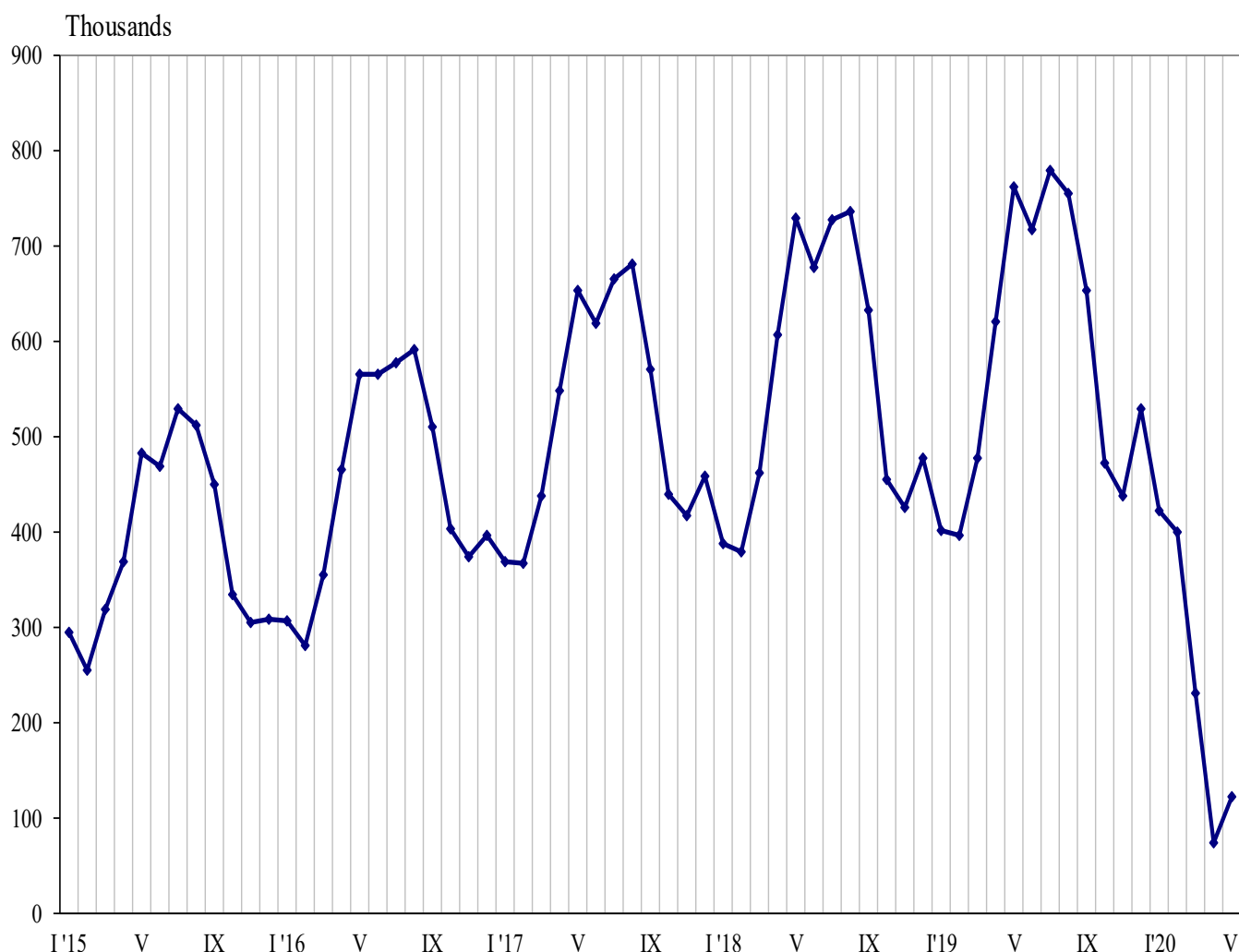


TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA¹ IN MAY 2020

In May 2020, during the state of emergency and followed epidemic situation in the country, **the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 123.3 thousand, or by 83.8% under the registered in May 2019. In comparison with April 2020 the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad increased by 63.8% (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months



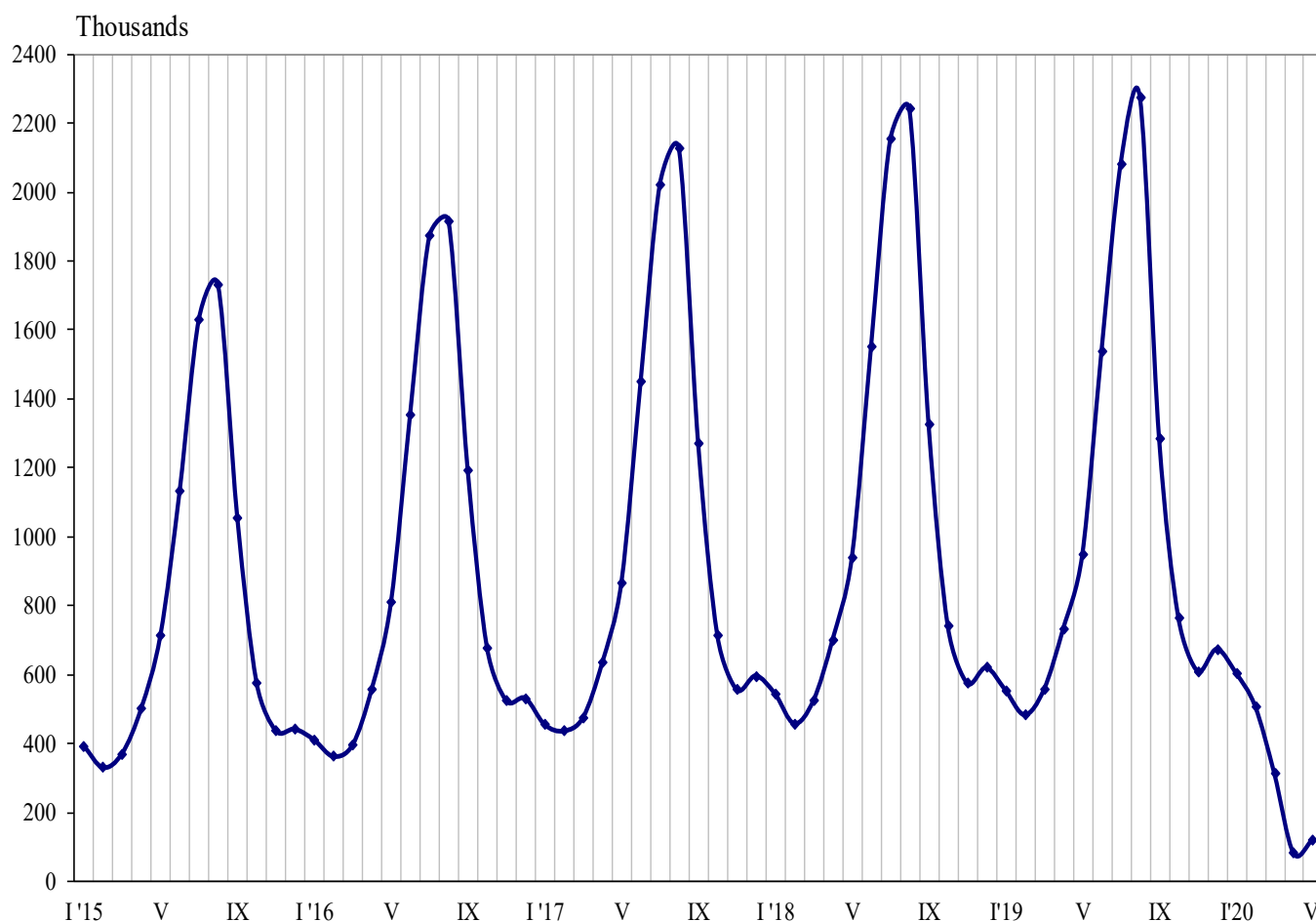
¹ Data provided by the Ministry of Interior.

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In May 2020, the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria was 120.4 thousand (Annex, Table 1) or by 87.3% less in comparison with May 2019 (Figure 2). Compared to April 2020, an increase of 48.3% was registered. A collapse in the trips with all observed purposes was registered: ‘holiday and recreation’ - by 99.8%, ‘professional’ - by 80.1% and ‘others’ (including as guest and passing transit) - by 79.2%. Transit passes through the country were 52.8% (63.6 thousand) of all visits of foreigners to Bulgaria.

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



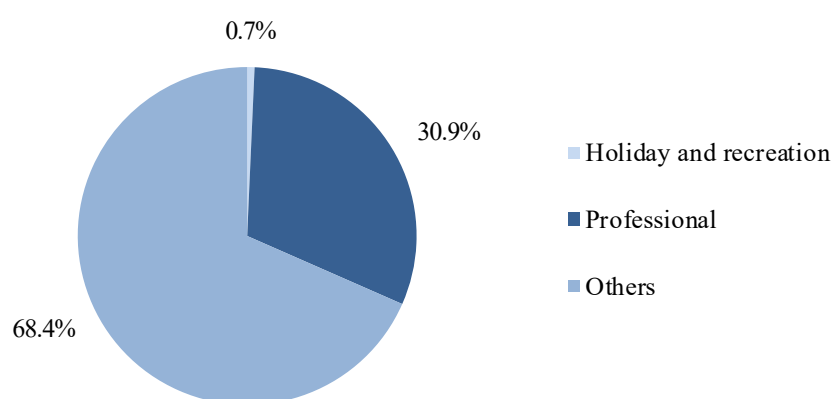
The share of visits of EU citizens was 41.0% of the total number of foreigners’ visits to Bulgaria in May 2020 or by 91.7% less in comparison with the same month of the previous year. A drop in the visits of citizens from all observed countries was registered.

The visits of foreigners in the group ‘Other European countries’¹ decreased by 76.8%.

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

In May 2020, the relative share of visits by purpose was as follows: with other purposes - 68.4%, followed by trips with professional purpose - 30.9%, and with holiday and recreation purpose - 0.7% (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Structure of visits of foreign citizens to Bulgaria by purpose in May 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 May 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 May 2020

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	120382	873	37146	82363
EU¹	49411	532	13965	34914
Austria	281	-	42	239
Belgium	128	3	21	104
Croatia	471	-	157	314
Cyprus	29	-	-	29
Czech Republic	462	-	154	308
Denmark	66	-	28	38
Finland	26	-	9	17
France	157	-	26	131
Germany	1062	133	338	591
Greece	7899	307	1241	6351
Hungary	1559	-	359	1200
Ireland	38	-	8	30
Italy	481	-	215	266
Malta	4	-	-	4
Netherlands	356	-	115	241
Poland	6371	72	1646	4653
Portugal	86	6	51	29
Romania	27848	-	8902	18946
Slovakia	314	3	25	286
Slovenia	45	-	8	37
Spain	197	-	41	156
Sweden	61	8	-	53
United Kingdom	784	-	167	617
Other EU countries	686	-	412	274
Other European countries	60966	297	20475	40194
Norway	18	-	8	10
Republic of North Macedonia	5037	87	2512	2438
Russian Federation	1244	9	387	848
Serbia	8289	111	4555	3623
Switzerland	34	-	5	29
Turkey	40294	41	11183	29070
Ukraine	6050	49	1825	4176
Other countries	1817	5	80	1732
Canada	..	-
Israel	62	55
Japan	-	..
USA	1739	4	73	1662
Rest of the world	8188	39	2626	5523

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

'-' - No case registered.

'..' - Confidential data.

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