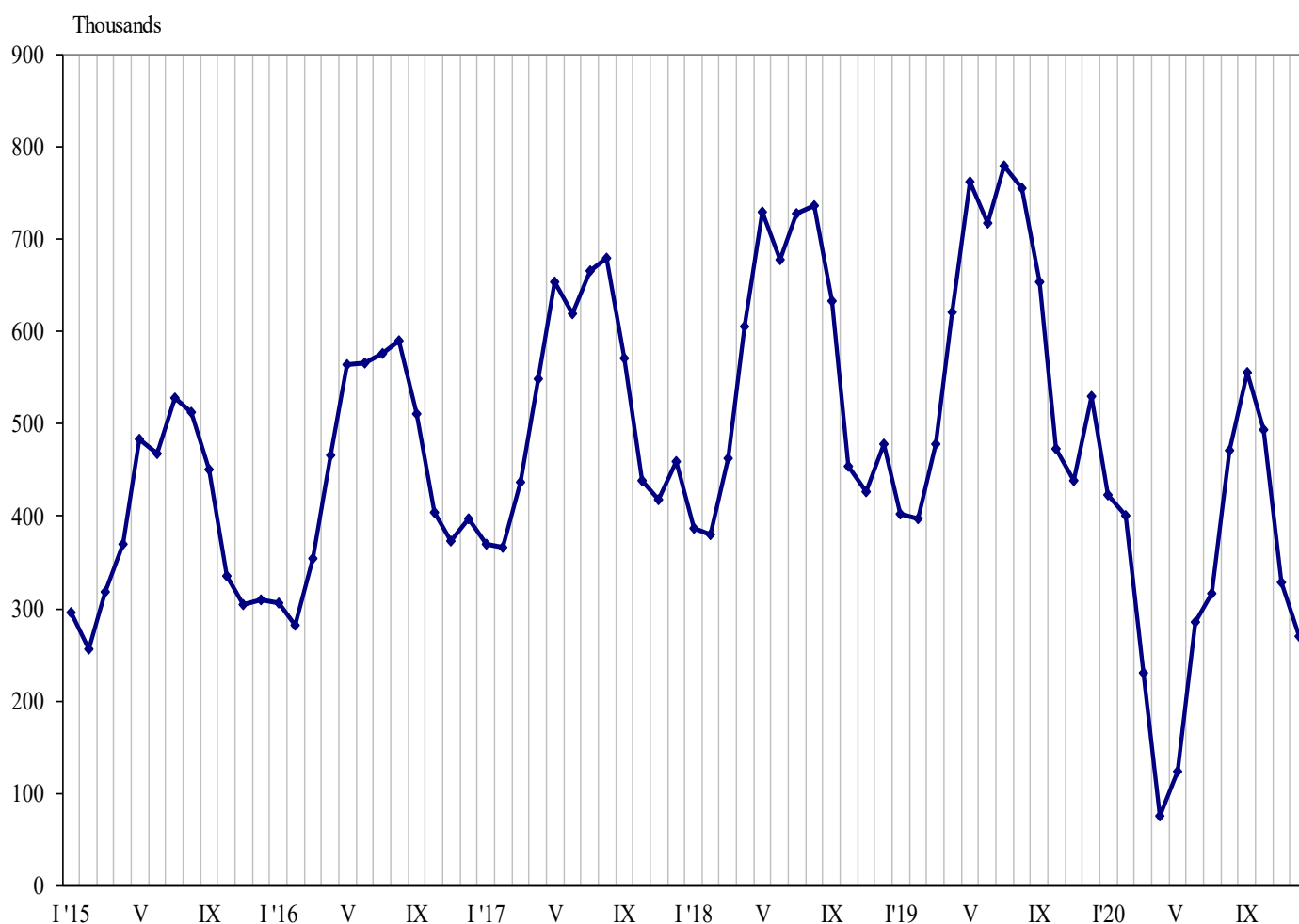


TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA¹ IN DECEMBER 2020

In December 2020, during the continuing epidemic situation in the country, **the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 269.4 thousand, or by 49.1% under the registered in December 2019 (Figure 1).

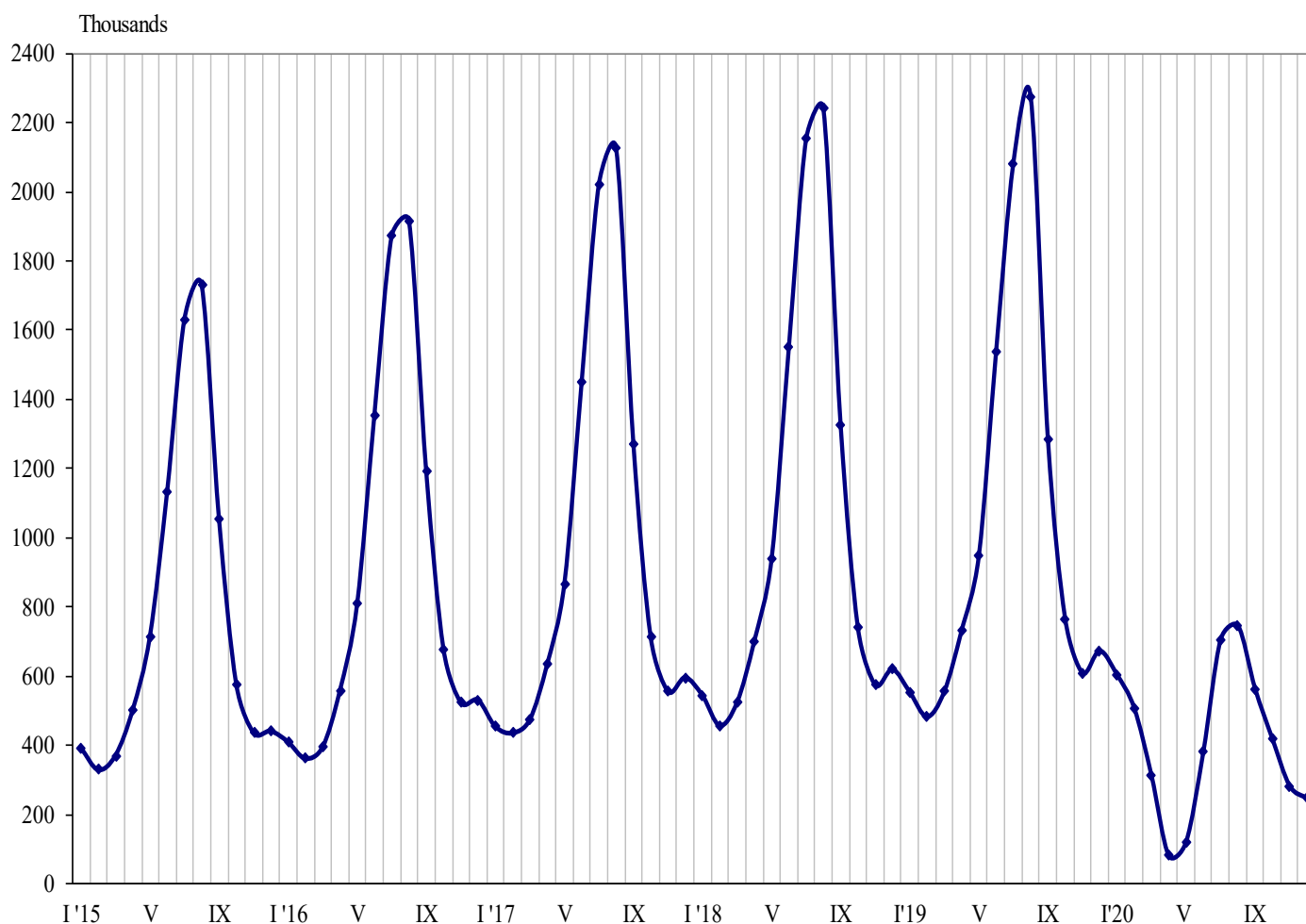
Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months



¹ Data provided by the Ministry of Interior.

In December 2020, **the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria** was 246.9 thousand (Annex, Table 1) or by 63.3% less in comparison with December 2019 (Figure 2). A collapse in the trips with all observed purposes was registered: ‘holiday and recreation’ - by 88.7%, ‘professional’ - by 63.9% and ‘others’ (including as guest and passing transit) - by 44.2%. Transit passes through the country were 54.3% (134.1 thousand) of all visits of foreigners to Bulgaria.

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



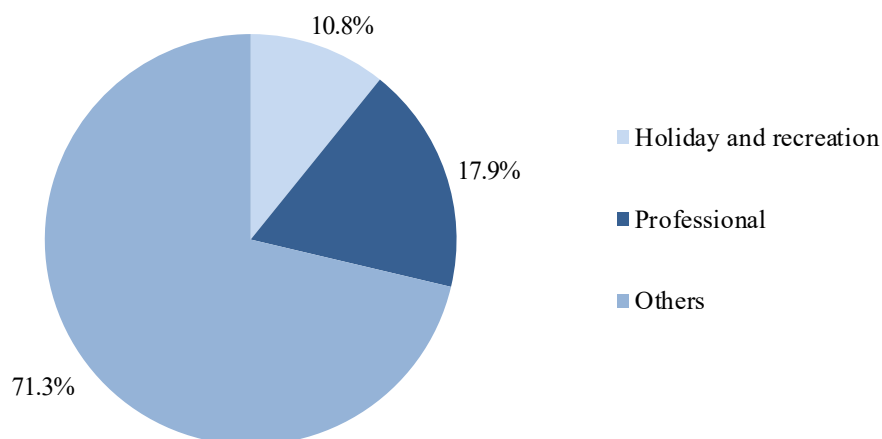
The share of visits of EU citizens was 36.5% of the total number of foreigners’ visits to Bulgaria in December 2020 or by 75.8% less in comparison with the same month of the previous year. A drop in the visits of citizens from all observed countries was registered.

The visits of foreigners in the group ‘Other European countries’¹ decreased by 45.9%.

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

In December 2020, the relative share of visits by purpose was as follows: with other purposes - 71.3%, with professional purpose - 17.9% and with holiday and recreation purpose - 10.8% (Figure 3).

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

Annex

Table 1

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

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	246930	26572	44262	176096
EU¹	90240	5870	11914	72456
Austria	2614	127	139	2348
Belgium	1656	97	231	1328
Croatia	916	76	45	795
Cyprus	151	15	33	103
Czechia	953	63	215	675
Denmark	203	-	67	136
Finland	..	42	-	..
France	2696	734	103	1859
Germany	7425	728	235	6462
Greece	12430	799	2138	9493
Hungary	1918	105	72	1741
Ireland	229	98	-	131
Italy	1890	546	249	1095
Malta	..	22	-	..
Netherlands	1952	217	104	1631
Poland	6627	197	148	6282
Portugal	242	112	-	130
Romania	42311	1031	7404	33876
Slovakia	491	39	16	436
Slovenia	174	44	-	130
Spain	820	157	164	499
Sweden	652	86	24	542
United Kingdom	3015	423	390	2202
Other EU countries	734	112	137	485
Other European countries	129210	18333	27132	83745
Norway	98
Republic of North Macedonia	16543	2737	3709	10097
Russian Federation	1843	1313
Serbia	21135	7866	4925	8344
Switzerland	649	162
Turkey	77563	5781	15423	56359
Ukraine	11379	1565	2681	7133
Other countries	2426	391	193	1842
Canada	137	57	9	71
Israel	379	266	29	84
Japan	35	22	3	10
USA	1875	46	152	1677
Rest of the world	25054	1978	5023	18053

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

'-' - No case registered.

'..' - Confidential data.