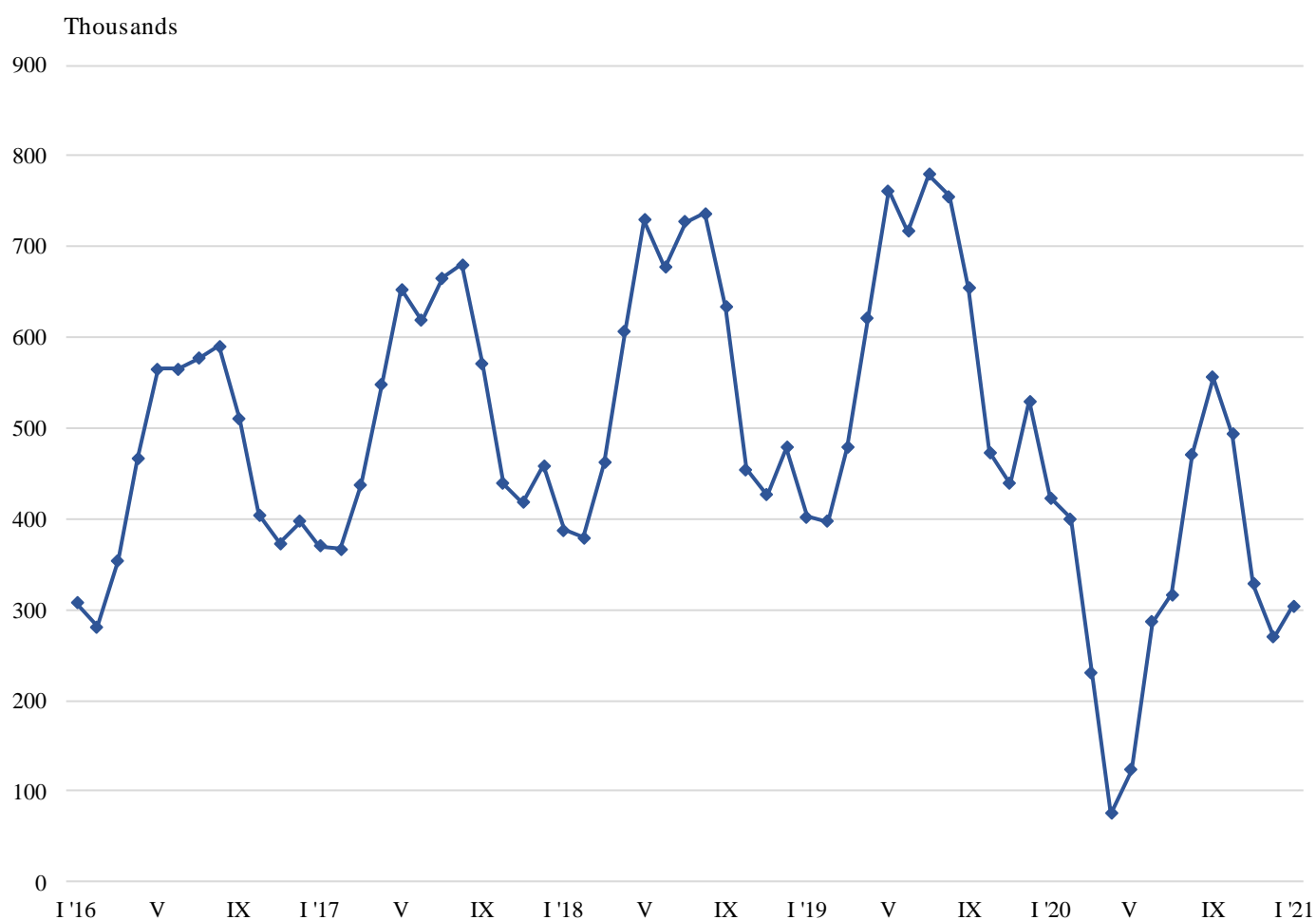


## TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA<sup>1</sup> IN JANUARY 2021

In January 2021, during the continuing epidemic situation in the country, **the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 303.7 thousand, or by 28.2% under the registered in January 2020 (Figure 1).

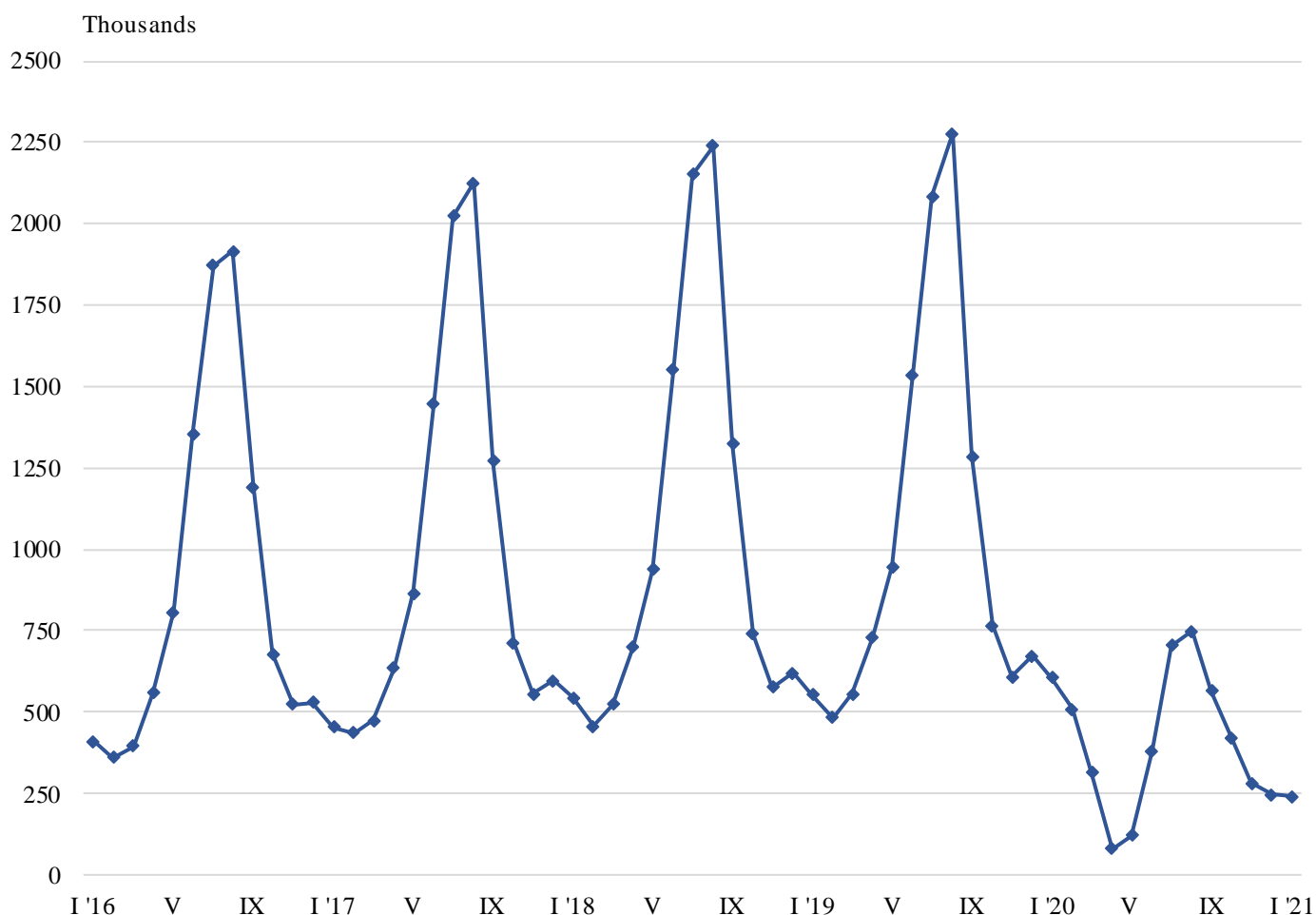
**Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months**



<sup>1</sup> Data provided by the Ministry of Interior.

In January 2021, **the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria** was 241.7 thousand (Annex, Table 1) or by 60.0% less in comparison with January 2020 (Figure 2). A collapse in the trips with all observed purposes was registered: ‘holiday and recreation’ - by 82.7%, ‘professional’ - by 57.4% and ‘others’ (including as guest and passing transit) - by 37.0%. Transit passes through the country were 50.1% (121.1 thousand) of all visits of foreigners to Bulgaria.

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



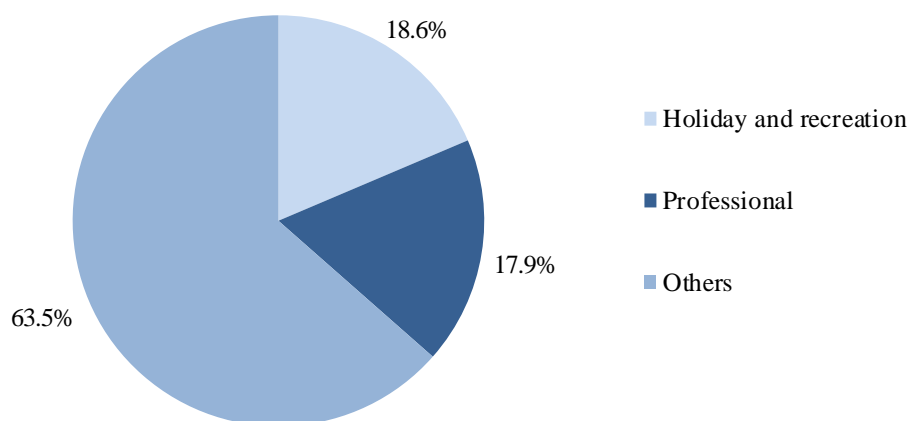
The share of visits of EU citizens was 41.6% of the total number of foreigners’ visits to Bulgaria in January 2021 or by 63.6% less in comparison with the same month of the previous year. A drop in the visits of citizens from all observed countries was registered, except for the visits from the Czechia, where there was a slight increase of 1.5%.

The visits of foreigners in the group ‘Other European countries’<sup>1</sup> decreased by 56.5%.

<sup>1</sup> Group ‘Other European countries’ includes countries in Europe outside EU.

In January 2021, the relative share of visits by purpose was as follows: with other purposes - 63.5%, with holiday and recreation purpose - 18.6%, and with professional purpose - 17.9% (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Structure of visits of foreign citizens to Bulgaria by purpose in January 2021**



## 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 January 2021, 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 January 2021

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
<b>Total</b>	<b>241733</b>	<b>44924</b>	<b>43291</b>	<b>153518</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>100671</b>	<b>23519</b>	<b>14045</b>	<b>63107</b>
Austria	2136	133	159	1844
Belgium	974	278	139	557
Croatia	960	76	278	606
Cyprus	176	-	32	144
Czechia	1658	315	414	929
Denmark	169	54	25	90
Finland	125	63	29	33
France	2158	703	269	1186
Germany	5898	1180	245	4473
Greece	15440	7947	1907	5586
Hungary	2171	154	135	1882
Ireland	243	83	49	111
Italy	2181	731	307	1143
Malta	79	12	25	42
Netherlands	1326	142	247	937
Poland	7040	125	353	6562
Portugal	236	45	67	124
Romania	54569	10916	9004	34649
Slovakia	687	76	55	556
Slovenia	193	59	18	116
Spain	941	266	105	570
Sweden	516	96	38	382
Other EU countries	795	65	145	585
<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>115450</b>	<b>17941</b>	<b>24479</b>	<b>73030</b>
Norway	117	81	24	12
Republic of North Macedonia	14413	4008	3135	7270
Russian Federation	1612	138	309	1165
Serbia	18964	7990	4405	6569
Switzerland	432	118	78	236
Turkey	67619	3036	13881	50702
Ukraine	10667	2160	2395	6112
United Kingdom	1626	410	252	964
<b>Other countries</b>	<b>2653</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>2026</b>
Canada	112	39	15	58
Israel	379	270	42	67
Japan	34	11	13	10
USA	2128	67	170	1891
<b>Rest of the world</b>	<b>22959</b>	<b>3077</b>	<b>4527</b>	<b>15355</b>

'-' - No case registered.