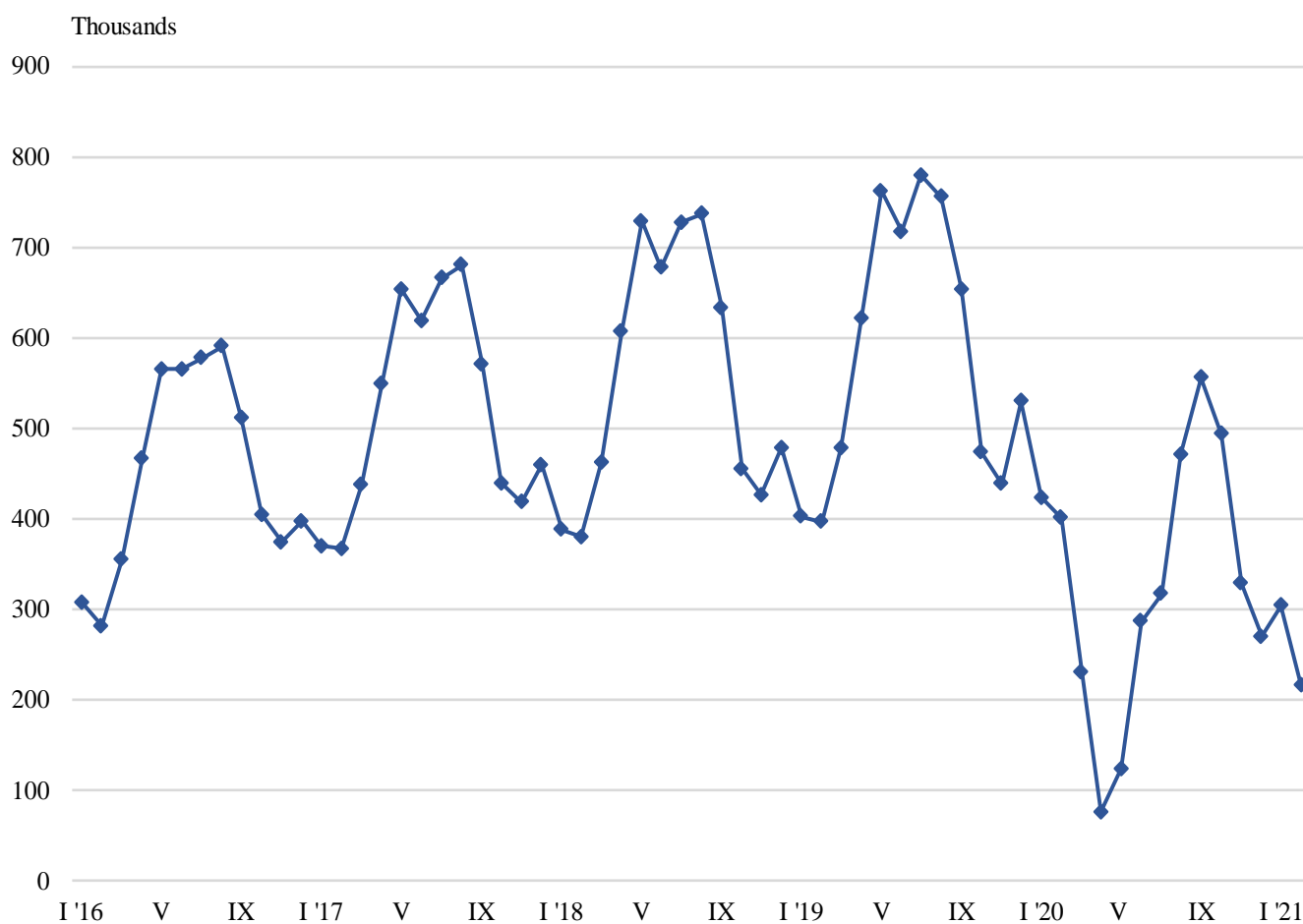


TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA¹ IN FEBRUARY 2021

In February 2021, during the continuing epidemic situation in the country, **the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 215.3 thousand, or by 46.3% under the registered in February 2020 (Figure 1).

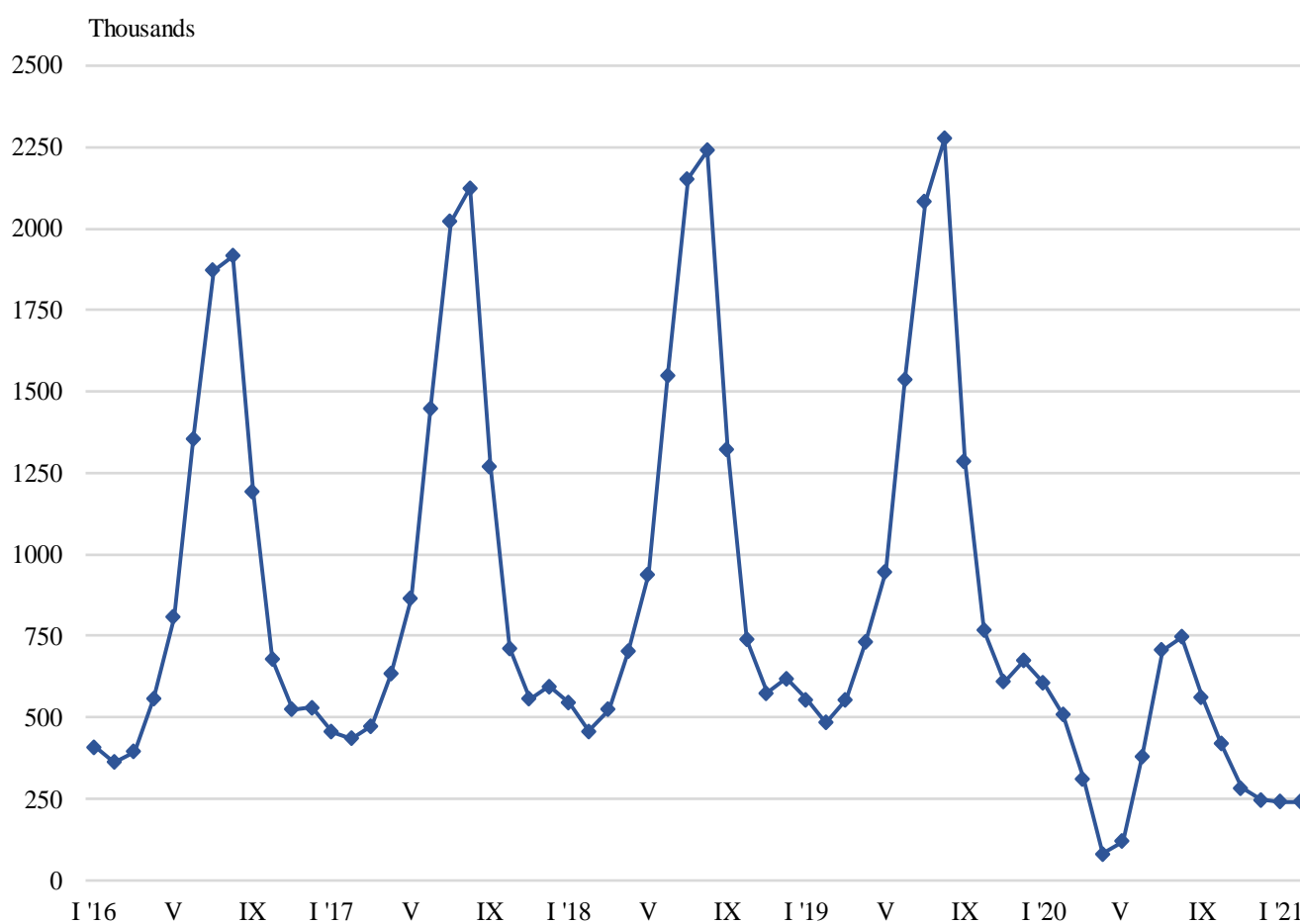
Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months



¹ Data provided by the Ministry of Interior.

In February 2021, **the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria** was 240.9 thousand (Annex, Table 1) or by 52.6% less in comparison with February 2020 (Figure 2). A collapse in the trips with all observed purposes was registered: ‘holiday and recreation’ - by 81.7%, ‘professional’ - by 50.7% and ‘others’ (including as guest and passing transit) - by 21.7%. Transit passes through the country were 54.6% (131.5 thousand) of all visits of foreigners to Bulgaria.

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



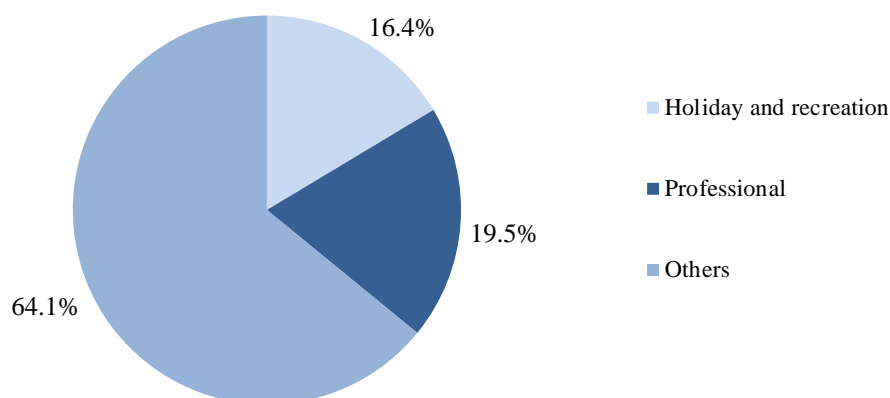
The share of visits of EU citizens was 40.7% of the total number of foreigners’ visits to Bulgaria in February 2021 or by 56.4% less in comparison with the same month of the previous year. A drop in the visits of citizens from all observed countries was registered, except for the visits from the Czechia, where there was an increase of 76.1% compared to February 2020.

The visits of foreigners in the group ‘Other European countries’¹ decreased by 46.9%.

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

In February 2021, the relative share of visits by purpose was as follows: with other purposes - 64.1%, with professional purpose - 19.5%, and with holiday and recreation purpose - 16.4% (Figure 3).

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

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	240866	39433	47045	154388
EU	97943	22359	14585	60999
Austria	1585	228	154	1203
Belgium	671	255	119	297
Croatia	1030	149	93	788
Cyprus	248	86	15	147
Czechia	3352	1820	110	1422
Denmark	146	61	22	63
Finland	105	48	21	36
France	1863	814	181	868
Germany	5499	1578	355	3566
Greece	14952	3155	3424	8373
Hungary	2123	239	87	1797
Ireland	278	116	32	130
Italy	2349	1197	241	911
Malta	90	62	12	16
Netherlands	1321	324	88	909
Poland	6970	560	213	6197
Portugal	173	130	29	14
Romania	52278	10650	9037	32591
Slovakia	667	108	79	480
Slovenia	237	104	47	86
Spain	537	269	103	165
Sweden	514	143	24	347
Other EU countries	955	263	99	593
Other European countries	119732	14128	27545	78059
Norway	122	55	-	67
Republic of North Macedonia	15098	3824	3612	7662
Russian Federation	1829	203	392	1234
Serbia	19091	3544	5943	9604
Switzerland	442	218	58	166
Turkey	67652	2905	14483	50264
Ukraine	12632	2557	2793	7282
United Kingdom	2866	822	264	1780
Other countries	2235	171	255	1809
Canada	104	30	17	57
Israel	159	84	33	42
Japan	63	13	16	34
USA	1909	44	189	1676
Rest of the world	20956	2775	4660	13521

'-' - No case registered.