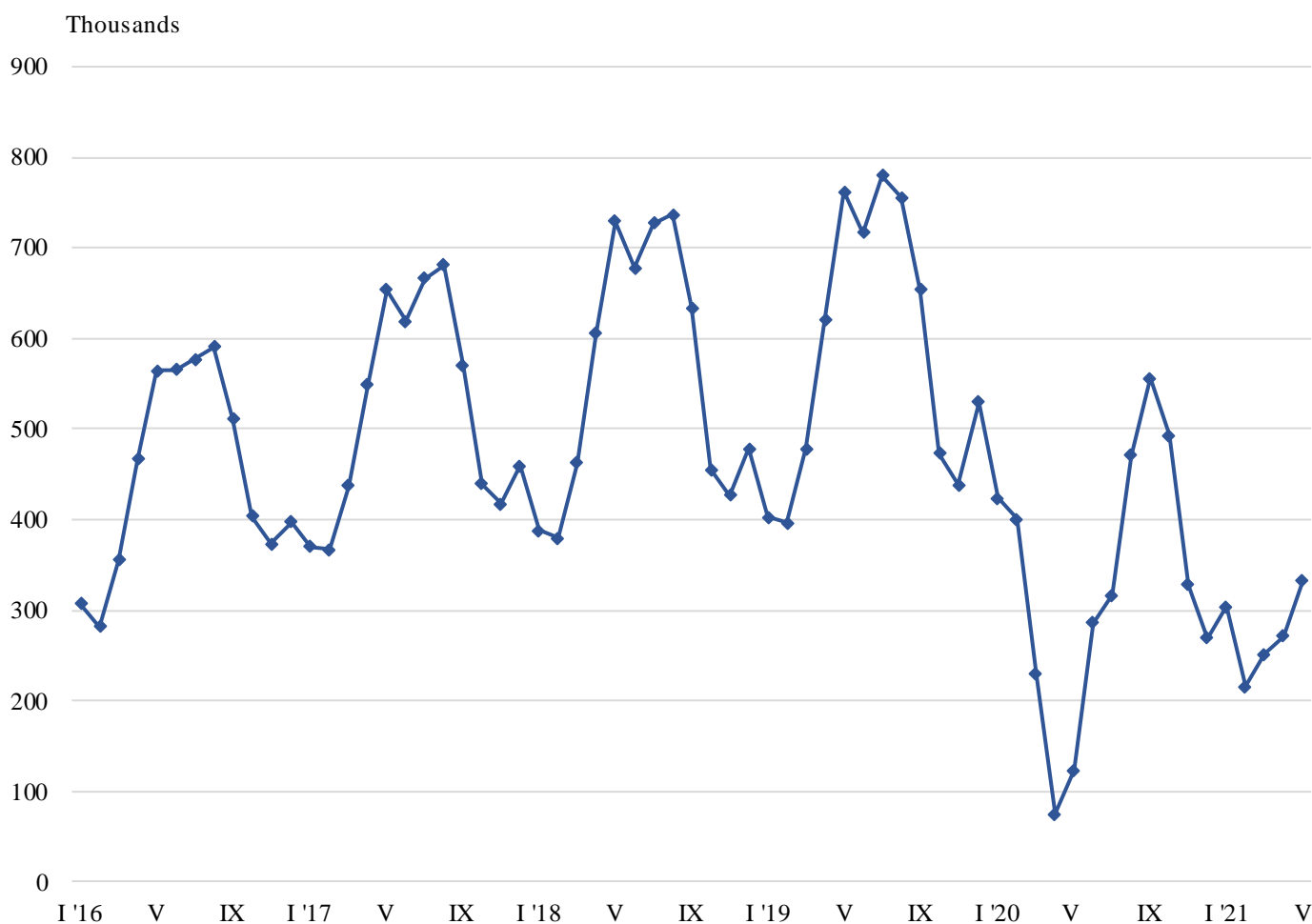


TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA^{1,2} IN MAY 2021

In May 2021, in the conditions of the continuing epidemic situation, the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad was 332.0 thousand (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months

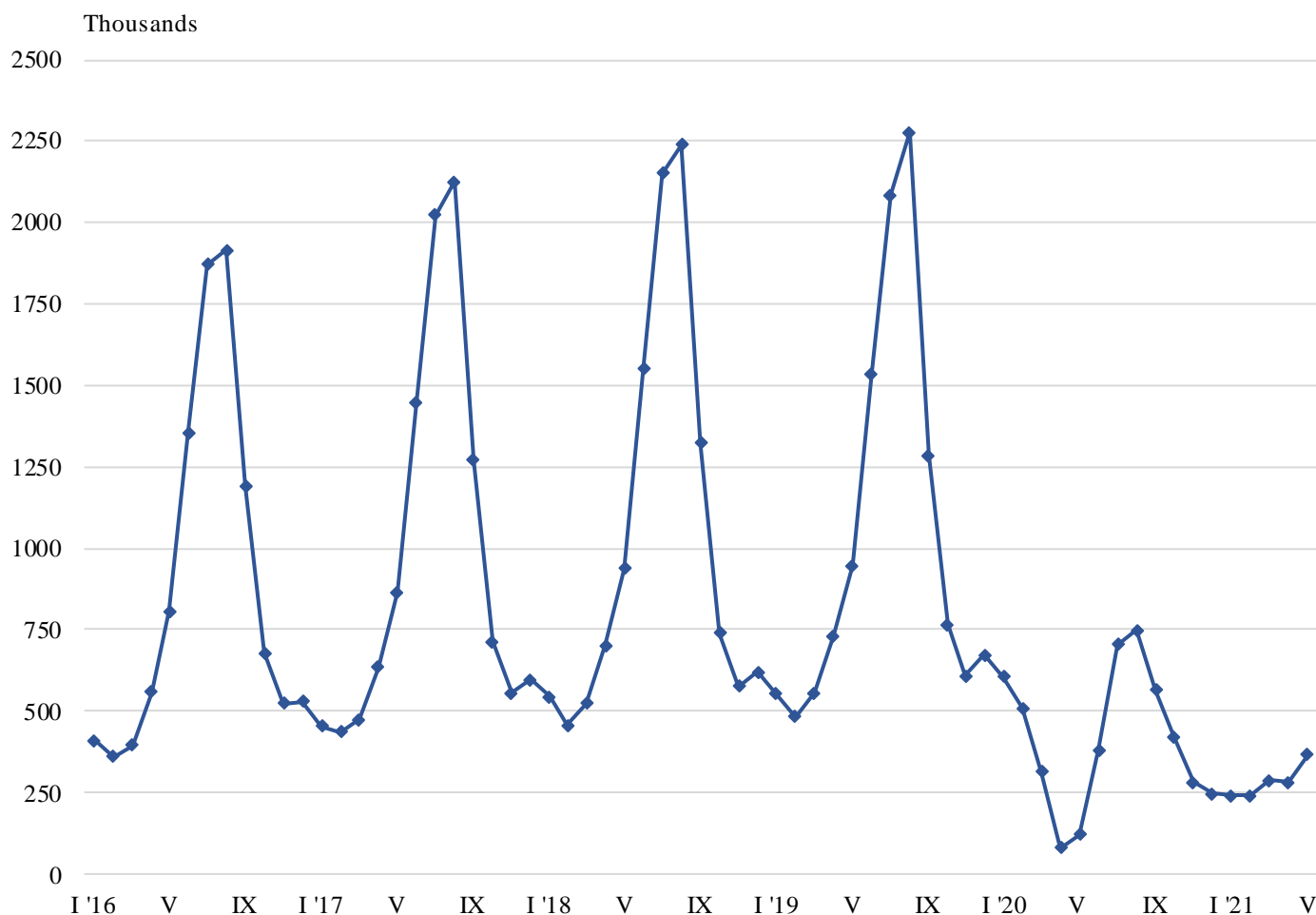


¹ Data provided by the Ministry of Interior.

² The press release does not contain comparative data due to the worldwide spread of coronavirus COVID-19 and the state of emergency on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria declared by a Decision of the National Assembly (State Gazette No. 22/13.03.2020).

In May 2021, the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria was 365.6 thousand (Annex, Table 1), as the transit was 58.6% (214.3 thousand) of all visits of foreigners in the country.

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



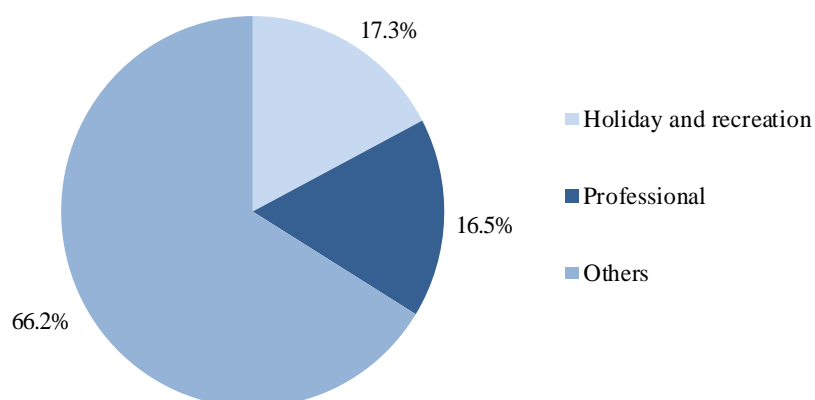
The share of visits of EU citizens was 44.6% of the total number of foreigners' visits to Bulgaria in May 2021 or 163.0 thousand, as the highest number of visits was from Romania - 47.3%, Greece - 13.4%, Germany - 10.3% and Poland - 9.0%.

The visits of foreigners in the group 'Other European countries'¹ were 161.9 thousand or 44.3% of all visits to Bulgaria. The highest number of visits from Turkey - 85.5 thousand or 52.8% of the visits in this group was registered.

¹ Group 'Other European countries' includes countries in Europe outside EU.

In May 2021, the relative share of visits by purpose was as follows: with other purposes - 66.2%, with holiday and recreation purpose - 17.3%, and with professional purpose - 16.5% (Figure 3).

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

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	365645	63070	60340	242235
EU	162969	27902	20783	114284
Austria	3405	575	139	2691
Belgium	1923	354	385	1184
Croatia	1267	144	195	928
Cyprus	406	111	66	229
Czechia	1965	583	161	1221
Denmark	374	181	39	154
Finland	349	121	23	205
France	4929	2578	275	2076
Germany	16758	3582	397	12779
Greece	21832	4628	5043	12161
Hungary	2778	437	122	2219
Ireland	349	195	45	109
Italy	4267	1592	320	2355
Malta	122	58	-	64
Netherlands	3275	564	269	2442
Poland	14724	2515	859	11350
Portugal	1036	429	130	477
Romania	77056	7320	11704	58032
Slovakia	1035	154	59	822
Slovenia	331	186	48	97
Spain	2143	865	152	1126
Sweden	972	256	48	668
Other EU countries	1673	474	304	895
Other European countries	161880	25839	32859	103182
Norway	215	121	45	49
Republic of North Macedonia	18875	5268	5866	7741
Russian Federation	3025	866	554	1605
Serbia	29770	6762	6679	16329
Switzerland	771	309	123	339
Turkey	85522	6412	16785	62325
Ukraine	20326	4785	2510	13031
United Kingdom	3376	1316	297	1763
Other countries	8064	5002	500	2562
Canada	272	112	51	109
Israel	4304	4087	69	148
Japan	71	20	40	11
USA	3417	783	340	2294
Rest of the world	32732	4327	6198	22207

'-' - No case registered.