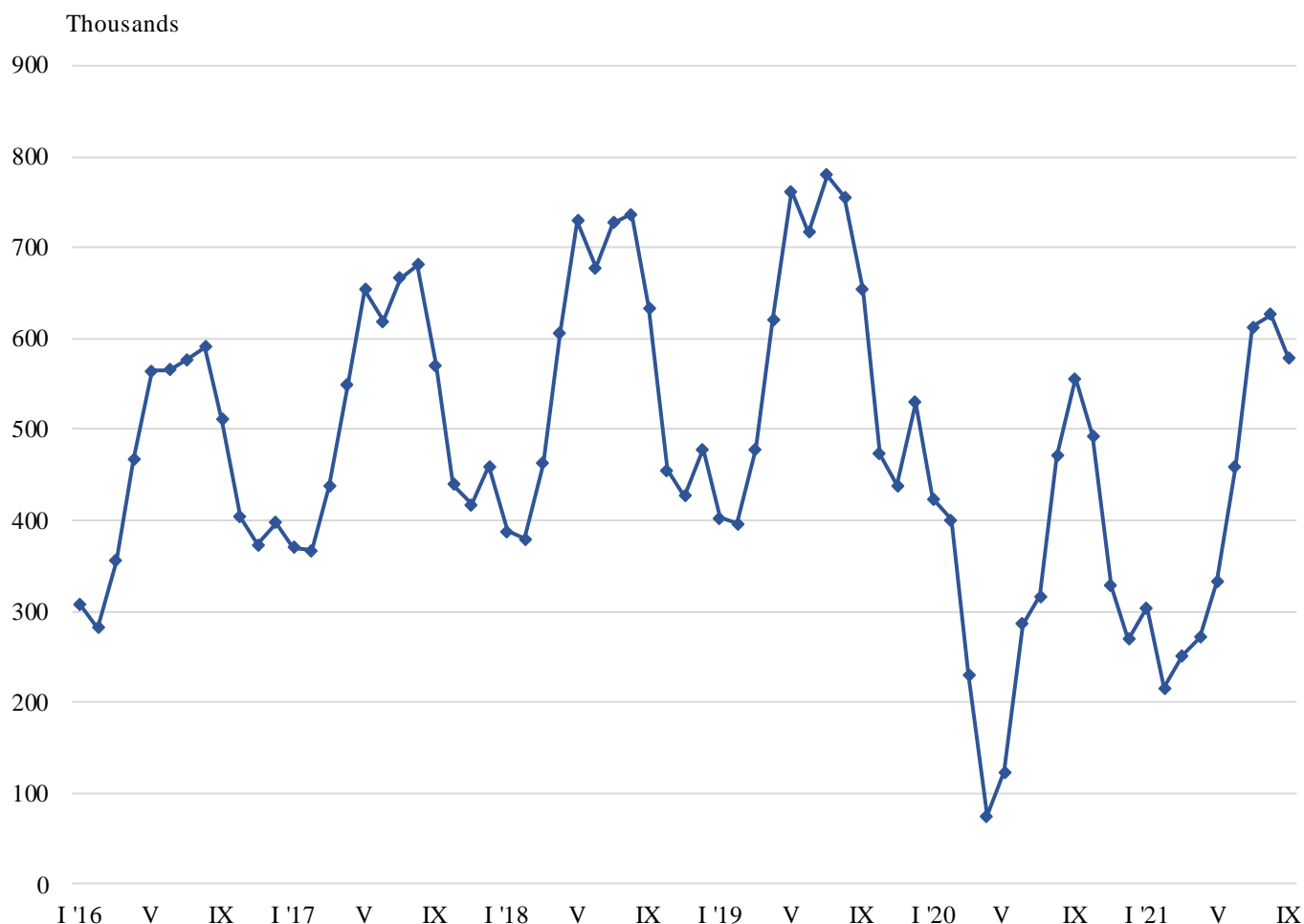


TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA¹ IN SEPTEMBER 2021

In September 2021, in the conditions of the continuing epidemic situation, **the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 579.2 thousand or by 4.2% above the registered in September 2020 (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months

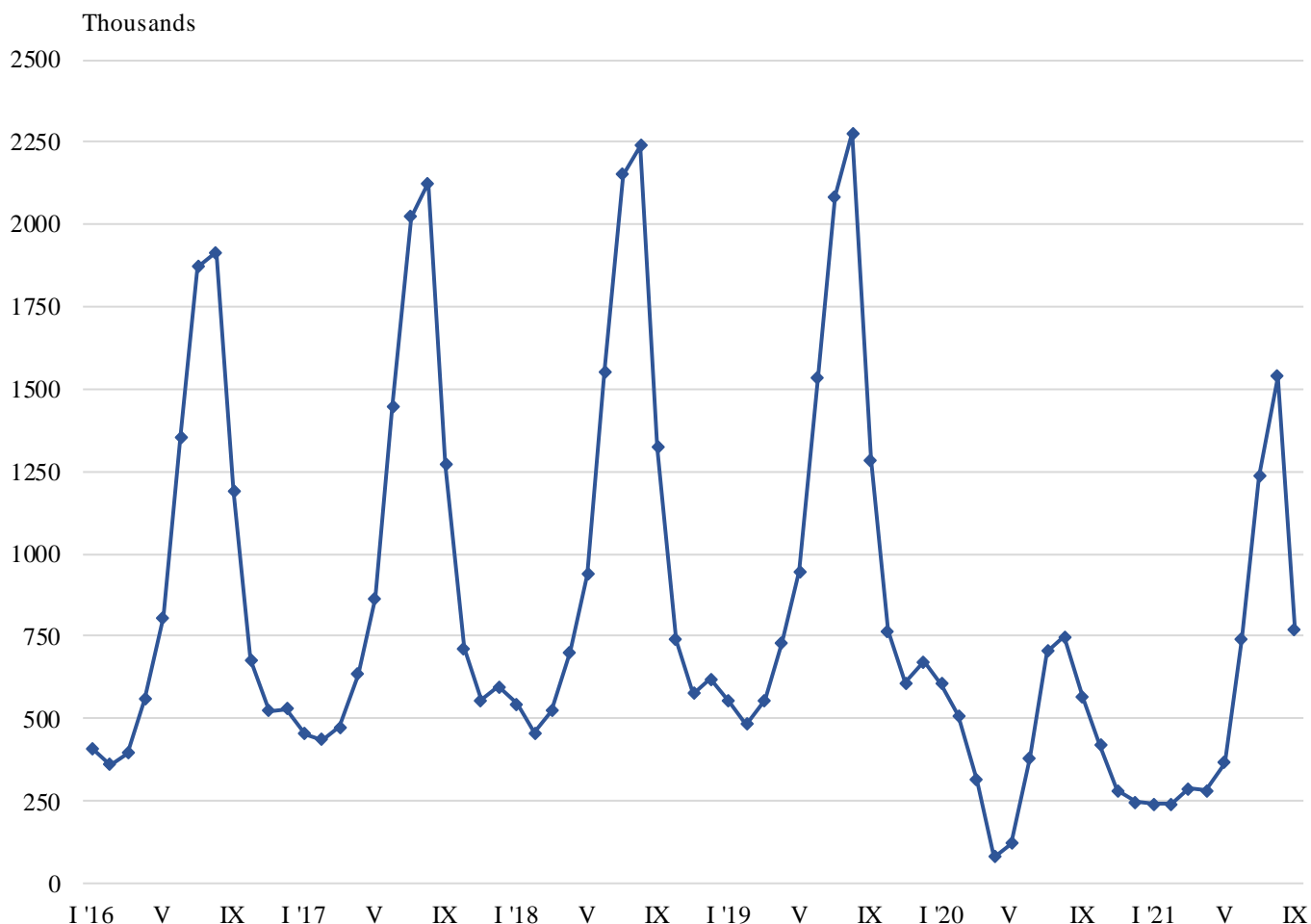


¹ Data provided by the Ministry of Interior. Due to the extension of the emergency epidemic situation in the country until 30.11.2021 with Decision 629 of the Council of Ministers of 26.08.2021, Order № RD-01-733 of 27.08.2021 and Order № RD-01743 of 31.08. 2021 of the Minister of Health, the statistical survey 'Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad and arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria' in September was not conducted.

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In September 2021, the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria was 772.6 thousand (Figure 2) or by 37.1% above in comparison with September 2020 (Annex, Table 1), as the transit was 45.5% (351.6 thousand) of all visits of foreigners in the country.

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



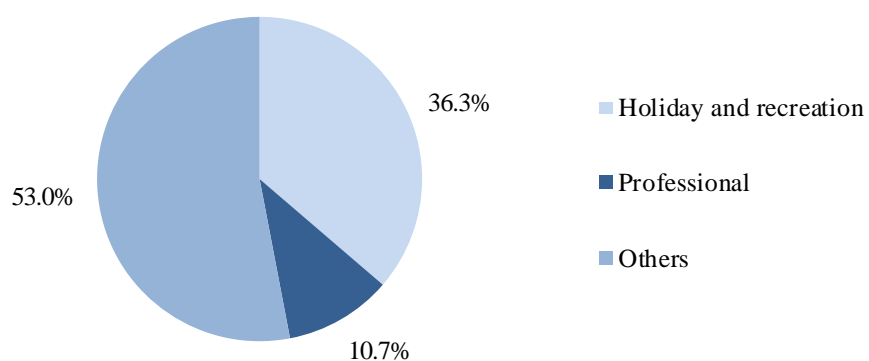
The share of visits of EU citizens was 50.8% of the total number of foreigners' visits to Bulgaria in September 2021 or 392.5 thousand, as the highest number of visits was from Romania - 30.0%, Germany - 24.3% and Poland - 9.8%.

The visits of foreigners in the group 'Other European countries'¹ were 315.8 thousand or 40.9% of all visits to Bulgaria. The highest number of visits from Turkey - 169.3 thousand or 53.6% of the visits in this group was registered.

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

In September 2021, the relative share of visits by purpose was as follows: with other purposes - 53.0%, with holiday and recreation purpose - 36.3%, and with professional purpose - 10.7% (Figure 3).

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

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	772584	280466	82679	409439
EU	392450	202387	42626	147437
Austria	15001	5749	536	8716
Belgium	11410	5871	1559	3980
Croatia	2136	722	192	1222
Cyprus	934	428	56	450
Czechia	11291	10682	282	327
Denmark	1773	1030	137	606
Finland	894	575	109	210
France	18740	12668	656	5416
Germany	95272	44683	666	49923
Greece	34724	5327	6424	22973
Hungary	5431	2664	527	2240
Ireland	1421	817	159	445
Italy	9107	4313	591	4203
Malta	299	299	-	-
Netherlands	13414	5355	281	7778
Poland	38494	22967	8661	6866
Portugal	1268	903	157	208
Romania	117617	68705	20056	28856
Slovakia	2230	1288	294	648
Slovenia	791	570	94	127
Spain	3538	2212	385	941
Sweden	2137	714	321	1102
Other EU countries	4528	3845	483	200
Other European countries	315800	63085	33175	219540
Norway	1250	550	182	518
Republic of North Macedonia	24084	1063	4581	18440
Russian Federation	18671	15712	497	2462
Serbia	42844	6927	6387	29530
Switzerland	2344	970	275	1099
Turkey	169283	17599	17951	133733
Ukraine	49784	15951	2949	30884
United Kingdom	7540	4313	353	2874
Other countries	7757	4223	453	3081
Canada	863	512	38	313
Israel	1065	769	48	248
Japan	191	113	23	55
USA	5638	2829	344	2465
Rest of the world	56577	10771	6425	39381

‘-’ - No case registered.