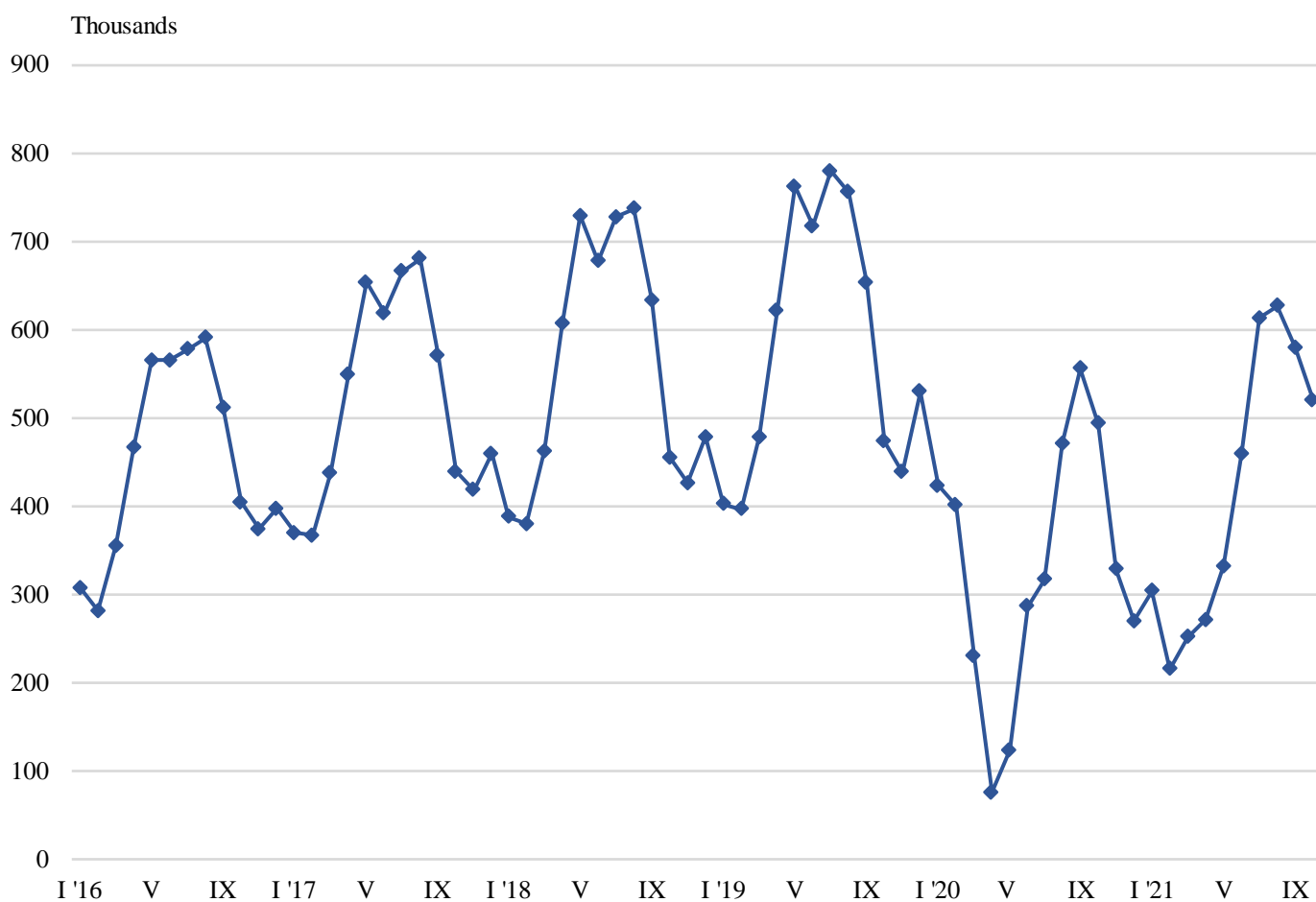


TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA¹ IN OCTOBER 2021

In October 2021, in the conditions of the continuing epidemic situation, **the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 519.7 thousand, or by 5.4% above the registered in October 2020 (Figure 1).

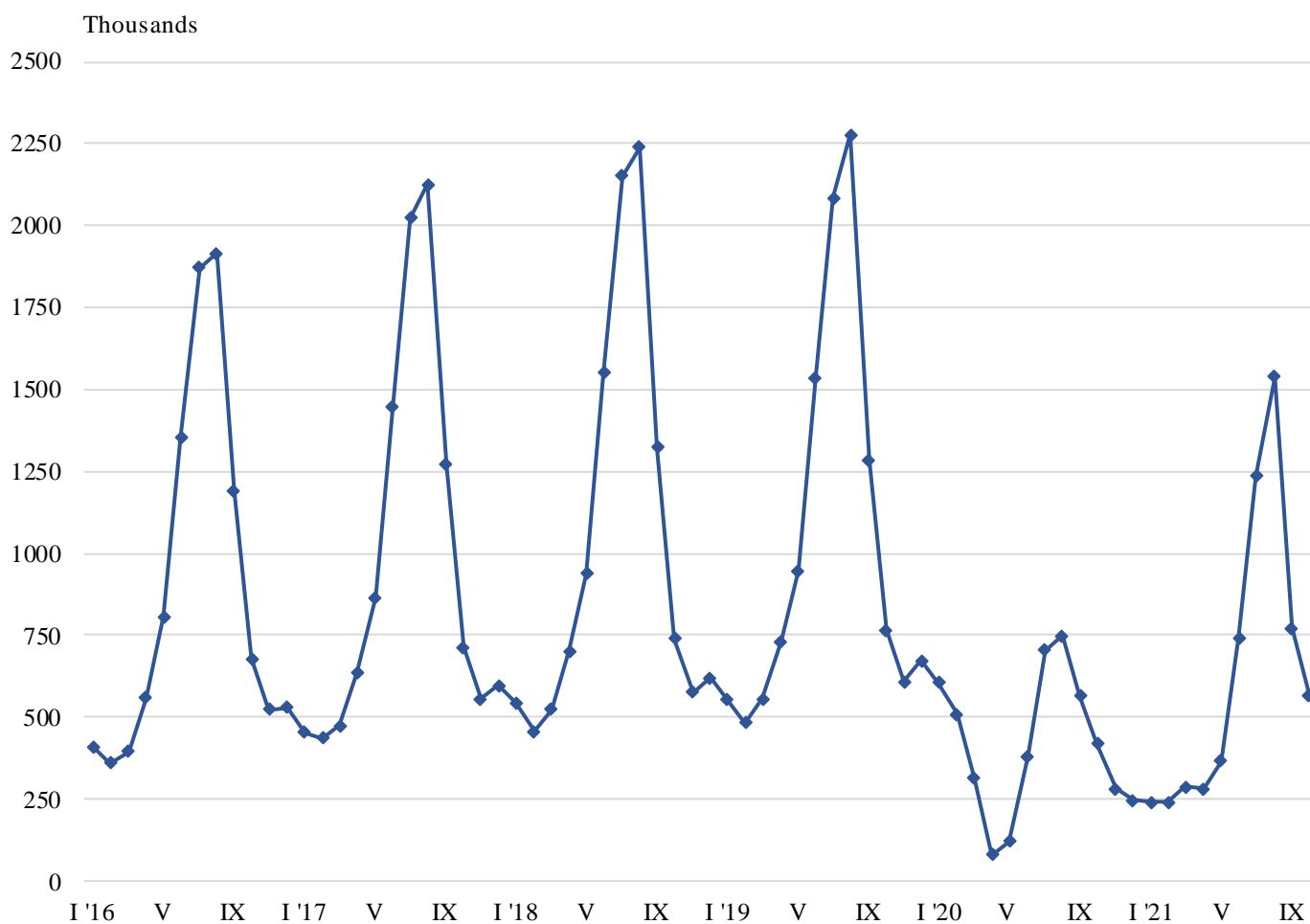
Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months



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-01-767 of 10.09.2021 of the Minister of Health, the statistical survey 'Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad and arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria' in October was not conducted.

In October 2021, **the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria** was 567.6 thousand (Figure 2), or by 35.4% above in comparison with October 2020 (Annex, Table 1), as the transit was 53.3% (302.4 thousand) of all visits of foreigners in the country.

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



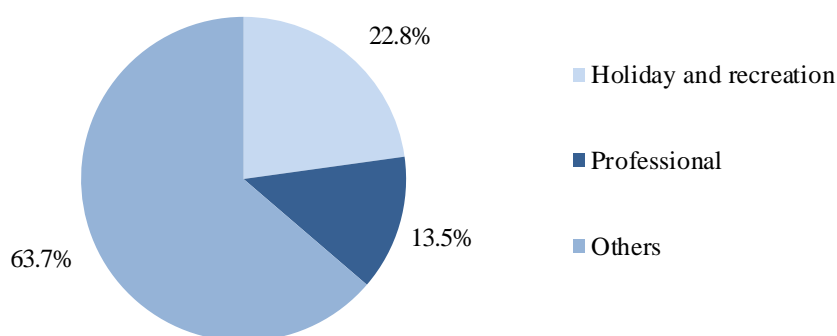
The share of visits of EU citizens was 42.7% of the total number of foreigners' visits to Bulgaria in October 2021, or 242.7 thousand, as the highest number of visits was from Romania - 31.8%, Greece - 21.6% and Germany - 15.6%.

The visits of foreigners in the group 'Other European countries'¹ were 270.8 thousand, or 47.7% of all visits to Bulgaria. The highest number of visits from Turkey - 146.2 thousand or 54.0% of the visits in this group was registered.

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

In October 2021, the relative share of visits by purpose was as follows: with other purposes - 63.7%, with holiday and recreation purpose - 22.8%, and with professional purpose - 13.5% (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Structure of visits of foreign citizens to Bulgaria by purpose in October 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 (NSI).

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 October 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 October 2021

(Number)

| Country of origin | Total | Purpose of visit | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | Holiday and recreation | Professional | Others |
| Total | 567637 | 129425 | 76712 | 361500 |
| EU | 242658 | 71301 | 33189 | 138168 |
| Austria | 6758 | 989 | 449 | 5320 |
| Belgium | 4052 | 1750 | 332 | 1970 |
| Croatia | 2476 | 539 | 362 | 1575 |
| Cyprus | 993 | 318 | 182 | 493 |
| Czechia | 2346 | 667 | 202 | 1477 |
| Denmark | 1734 | 638 | 184 | 912 |
| Finland | 615 | 382 | 92 | 141 |
| France | 7696 | 3679 | 254 | 3763 |
| Germany | 37804 | 13269 | 491 | 24044 |
| Greece | 52324 | 29842 | 6651 | 15831 |
| Hungary | 3998 | 508 | 212 | 3278 |
| Ireland | 970 | 483 | 94 | 393 |
| Italy | 10299 | 5325 | 813 | 4161 |
| Malta | 263 | 210 | 53 | - |
| Netherlands | 6973 | 1416 | 541 | 5016 |
| Poland | 13946 | 2600 | 2088 | 9258 |
| Portugal | 1323 | 683 | 282 | 358 |
| Romania | 77231 | 3772 | 18650 | 54809 |
| Slovakia | 1291 | 206 | 117 | 968 |
| Slovenia | 649 | 187 | 108 | 354 |
| Spain | 5471 | 2867 | 475 | 2129 |
| Sweden | 1609 | 403 | 184 | 1022 |
| Other EU countries | 1837 | 568 | 373 | 896 |
| Other European countries | 270788 | 47066 | 36487 | 187235 |
| Norway | 768 | 152 | 159 | 457 |
| Republic of North Macedonia | 38907 | 10027 | 4770 | 24110 |
| Russian Federation | 10704 | 6159 | 513 | 4032 |
| Serbia | 36789 | 1258 | 6951 | 28580 |
| Switzerland | 2413 | 570 | 207 | 1636 |
| Turkey | 146200 | 22079 | 20480 | 103641 |
| Ukraine | 27014 | 4976 | 2938 | 19100 |
| United Kingdom | 7993 | 1845 | 469 | 5679 |
| Other countries | 8898 | 5588 | 544 | 2766 |
| Canada | 750 | 459 | 31 | 260 |
| Israel | 3116 | 2565 | 110 | 441 |
| Japan | 125 | 81 | 17 | 27 |
| USA | 4907 | 2483 | 386 | 2038 |
| Rest of the world | 45293 | 5470 | 6492 | 33331 |

'-' - No case registered.